LAURIE WALLACE
Bothe & Lauridsen, P.C.
P.O. Box 2020
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Telephone: (406) 892-2193
Attorneys for Petitioner/Schmill

FILED

MAY - 5 2008

OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE HELENA, MONTANA

IN THE WORKERS COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
IN AND FOR THE AREA OF KALISPELL
BEFORE THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE

CASSANDRA SCHMILL,	WCC NO. 2004 0200
Petitioner,	WCC NO. 2001-0300
VS.	) PETITIONER'S REPSONSE TO ) RESPONDING INSURERS' "GATEWAY
LIBERTY NW INS. CORP.,	) LEGAL ISSUES" AND MOTION TO DISMISS
Respondent/Insurer,	)
and	
MONTANA STATE FUND,	)
Intervenor.	)
	1

COMES NOW the Petitioner, CASSANDRA SCHMILL, by and through her attorney of record, and files the following response to the Responding Insurers' brief on "Gateway Legal Issues" and Motion to Dismiss. For the reasons stated herein, the Responding Insurers' Motion to Dismiss should be denied.

#### **UNDISPUTED FACTS**

The Petitioner submits the following additional undisputed facts to those listed by Responding Insurers:

1. On October 11, 2001, Schmill and Liberty NW participated in an appellate mediation following Liberty's appeal of the decision of the WCC dated June 22, 2001. The mediator was Geoff Keller, attorney for Safeco Companies who have joined in the opening brief regarding the gateway legal issues submitted by the Responding Insurers. (Ex. 1.)

- 2. On January 9, 2002, the State Fund filed a Motion to File an Amicus Brief in the *Schmill* appeal before the Montana Supreme Court. (Ex. 2.)
- 3. On January 23, 2002, a Notice of Claim of Attorney Fee Lien was served on all insurers and self-insureds in *Rausch v. Montana State Fund.* (Ex. 3.)
- 4. On April 10, 2003, the Supreme Court issued its decision in Schmill I.
- 5. On April 25, 2003, the WCC issued an order in *Schmill* authorizing Liberty NW and all other Plan I and II insurers to withhold 25% of *Schmill* benefits to pay Petitioner's counsel's attorney fee lien. The Court went on to state that it "will consider a motion to intervene by insurers, self-insured employers, and/or claimants when they are received." (Ex. 4.) The Court's order was posted on the website.
- 6. On May 5, 2003, the State Fund filed a Motion to Intervene in *Schmill*, which was granted on May 21, 2003. (Ex. 5.)
- 7. On February 23, 2004, all insurers and self-insured employers were served with a Notice of Claim of Attorney Fee Lien in *Flynn v. Montana State Fund.* (Ex. 6.)
- On February 26, 2004, an Order Clarifying Global Lien in *Flynn* was emailed to all common fund attorneys, including counsel for Responding Insurers and Safeco Companies, Steve Jennings and Geoff Keller, respectively. In its Order, the WCC clarified that while the WCC had only authorized common fund fees to be paid from *Flynn* benefits paid by the State Fund as the named insurer, other insurers and self-insured employers were authorized to withhold attorney fees from *Flynn* benefits in the event that the Supreme Court found that the common fund extended to non-party insurers and self-insured employers. (Ex. 7.)
- 9. On June 4, 2004, the WCC issued its decision in Schmill II.
- 10. On January 10, 2005, a Summons was issued to select insures and self-insured employers in *Rausch/Ruhd v. Montana State Fund/Liberty NW* directing those insurers to withhold an attorney fee from the common fund benefits owed to the *Rausch/Ruhd* claimants. (Ex. 8.)
- 11. On April 22, 2005, a Summons and Notice of Attorney Fee Lien was

- served on the Responding Insurers and Safeco Companies in the case of Reesor v. Montana State Fund. (Ex. 9.)
- 12. On June 7, 2005, the Supreme Court issued its decision in Schmill II.

#### **ARGUMENT**

# I. The Responding Insurers have been afforded all the due process to which they are entitled.

Responding Insurers claim that because they were not parties in the *Schmill* case prior to April 10, 2003, when the Supreme Court decided *Schmill II*, or June 7, 2005, when the Supreme Court decided *Schmill II*, principles of due process prevent them from being bound by the decisions in either *Schmill I* or *Schmill II*. According to Responding Insurers, due process violations which exempt them from the holdings in *Schmill I* and *Schmill II* include (1) the WCC's lack of personal jurisdiction over Responding Insurers at the time of the decisions in *Schmill I* and *Schmill II*; and (2) the WCC's issuance of the Amended Summons without affording the Responding Insurers notice and an opportunity to be heard. In light of these due process violations, the Responding Insurers contend that the Court cannot enforce the judgments of *Schmill I* and *Schmill II* against them. (Responding Insurers' brief, p. 11.) The Responding Insurers' due process arguments are without merit and should be rejected for several reasons.

A. Responding Insurers became legally liable to pay past due Schmill benefits as of June 7, 2005, regardless of their status as either a party or a non-party to either of the two Schmill decisions.

The Responding Insurers contend that they are not bound by the decisions in *Schmill I* and *Schmill II* because they were not parties to these actions. In other words, according to Responding Insurers, they have no duty to follow case law unless they are a party litigant. Responding Insurers assert that it is only when individual claimants come forward and assert a right to *Schmill* benefits do they have a duty to "evaluate the claim." (Responding Insurers' Brief, p. 19.) Even then, Responding Insurers state that they do not have a duty to pay all *Schmill* claims, but only those they deem qualify "upon the facts of the claim and law set forth in *Schmill I* and *Schmill II*." (Id.) The Supreme Court has rejected the Responding Insurers' unique interpretation of the legal effects of common fund decisions.

In Ruhd v. Liberty NW Ins. Corp., WCC No. 2002-0500, the claimant, who was permanently and totally disabled, filed a petition for hearing before the WCC seeking payment of an impairment award from the insurer, Liberty NW. The WCC had previously concluded that permanently totally disabled claimants whose employers where insured by the State Fund were not entitled to impairment awards

in Rausch v. Montana State Fund, 2001 MTWCC 15. Both Rausch and Ruhd were appealed to the Montana Supreme Court and on September 5, 2002, the Supreme Court reversed the WCC's decision in Rausch.

Ruhd maintained his appeal alleging that *Rausch* only applied to State Fund claims. Writing in the context of the common fund fees claimed by the *Rausch* attorneys, the Supreme Court rejected this argument by stating that:

"There is no question that the intervenors [Rausch], via active litigation, are directly responsible for securing the right of all permanently totally disabled claimants to receive an impairment award, regardless of the insurer . . . As soon as we decided *Rausch*, however, liability for immediate payment of impairment awards was established against all insurers." *Ruhd v. Liberty NW Ins. Corp.*, 2004 MT 236, ¶¶ 9 & 22, 322 Mont. 478, ¶¶19 & 22, 97 P.3d 561, ¶19 & 22.

If the legally binding nature of case law on both parties and non-parties was not clear enough, the Supreme Court went on to explain the futility of requiring individual claimants to pursue separate claims against other non-party insurers:

"A conclusion contrary to what is held here could easily spawn unnecessary litigation. Acknowledging, as the parties posit, that there are 600 licensed insurers that could be implicated, it appears from the record that there are only 165 permanently totally disabled claimants covered by 48 active insurers in the State of Montana. Holding that intervenors are only entitled to common fund fees from State Fund claimants, and that Mr. Angel is entitled to common fund fees from Liberty claimants, could inspire at least one claimant covered by each of the other 46 insurers to file a suit which could lead nowhere but to where we are right now. The law established by Rausch will not be changed by further suits. Redundant litigation, which could lead to disparate fee awards, and thus disparate recovery, should not be encouraged." (Id. ¶24.)

Common fund cases create a vested right in all claimants to immediate payment of benefits established by the underlying decision. *Murer v. State Compensation Mut. Ins. Fund*, 283 Mont. 210, 223, 942 P.2d 69, 77 (1997). Once that vested right has been created, a corresponding duty on the part of all insurers

arises <u>as a matter of law</u> to pay the increased benefits. (*Id.*) Because these rights and duties arise automatically, there is no due process requirement that all insurers must be joined as parties to the underlying claims in order to be bound by the decisions.

This Court rejected similar arguments from non-party insurers in Rausch/Ruhd after the cases were remanded for implementation of the common fund. In a motion objecting to the WCC's summons issued to all Montana workers' compensation insurers and self-insured employers who paid permanent total disability benefits to certain claimants requiring them to identify all permanent total disability claimants and the status of any impairment awards, the non-party insurers claimed that the Court lacked jurisdiction over them due to their non-party status. (Brief in Support of Plum Creek Timber Co., LP's Objections to Summons and Motion to Quash Summons in Rausch/Ruhd attached hereto as Ex. 10.) First, the "parties."

Second, the Court cited the foregoing language from *Murer* and held that "[c]laimants have a vested right to benefits which flow from the decision-in-chief." (Order Denying Motion to Quash Summons and Objections, *Rausch/Ruhd*, dated February 22, 2005, attached hereto as Ex. 11.)

As the foregoing case law makes clear, the Responding Insurers' duty to pay Schmill benefits arose immediately upon the finding of a common fund, regardless of their status as either parties or non-parties. Under such circumstances, no due process violation occurred.

B. Responding Insurers had plenty of notice and ample opportunity to participate in *Schmill* prior to both Supreme Court decisions.

The Responding Insurers also contend that due process violations occurred when they were served with an amended summons without notice and an opportunity to be heard. First, as the Court noted in the Order Denying Motion to Quash Summons and Objections in Rausch/Ruhd, since the WCC was given the job of enforcing the common fund and attorney fee lien, it had the jurisdiction to join the non-party insurers. (Ex. 11, Order, ¶2.) The Court has the same authority in this case and thus the Summons was properly issued.

Even if the Court were required to afford the insurers greater notice and an opportunity to be heard, the facts confirm that the Responding Insurers would not have used those opportunities to challenge the WCC's *Schmill* decisions. After the WCC decision finding the apportionment statute unconstitutional, Schmill and Liberty NW participated in an appellate mediation conducted by counsel for Safeco Companies, Geoff Keller. Despite their counsel's intimate knowledge of the issues in *Schmill* as early as October of 2001, Safeco Companies never moved to

intervene in the appeal. In contrast, in January of 2002, the State Fund moved to file an amicus brief in the *Schmill* appeal, which was granted.

On January 23, 2003, a Notice of Attorney Fee Lien in *Rausch* was served on most, if not all, of the Responding Insurers, including Safeco Companies. From this date forward, the Responding Insurers were forewarned of the WCC's sanctioning of both the global common fund doctrine and the enforcement of an attorney fee lien in the common fund cases. None of the Responding Insurers, including Safeco Companies, moved to intervene at that time in *Schmill*.

After Schmill I was decided on April 10, 2003, the WCC issued an Order on April 25, 2003, authorizing Liberty NW and other Plan I and II insurers to withhold a 25% attorney fee from all Schmill payments. In its Order, the Court went on to expressly invite other "insurers, self-insured employers, and/or claimants" to intervene in Schmill. The only insurer to take the Court up on its offer was the State Fund, who filed a Motion to Intervene on May 5, 2003, which was granted. None of the Responding Insurers, including Safeco Companies, moved to intervene.

On February 23, 2004, a Notice of Claim of Attorney Fee Lien in *Flynn* was served on all insurers and self-insured employers, including all Responding Insurers and Safeco Companies. Several days later, a global lien order in *Flynn* was emailed to all common fund attorneys, including counsel representing Responding Insurers and Safeco Companies. The briefing before the WCC in *Schmill* regarding the issues of common fund and retroactivity would not be completed for several more months, yet neither the Responding Insurers, nor Safeco Companies, moved to intervene. These insurers were content, instead, to sit back and watch Liberty NW and the State Fund make the legal arguments challenging the *Schmill* common fund.

On June 4, 2004, the WCC issued its second decision in *Schmill*. It would be almost a year to the day before the Supreme Court would decide *Schmill II*, yet none of the Responding Insurers or Safeco Companies took advantage of the time and moved to file an amicus brief challenging the decision of the WCC.

On January 10, 2005, and April 22, 2005, common fund attorney fee lien summonses were issued in *Rausch/Ruhd* and *Reesor*, respectfully, and served on Responding Insurers and Safeco Companies. Again, neither group of insurers took any action in *Schmill*.

The foregoing facts clearly establish that the Responding Insurers and Safeco Companies were given plenty of notice and ample opportunity to participate either as amicus, or as an intervenor in *Schmill* prior to both of the Supreme Court decisions. The Responding Insurers and Safeco Companies chose to do nothing. Under such circumstances it would be error to find a due process violation.

# II. A common fund exists in Schmill by order of the Montana Supreme Court.

In their next argument, Responding Insurers claim that *Schmill* does not meet the common fund criteria. The Supreme Court has already ruled that it does. The Responding Insurers had over two years to present their common fund arguments to the WCC and the Montana Supreme Court and chose not to do so. Stare decisis prevents this Court from doing anything but upholding the decision of *Schmill II*.

# III. The WCC has subject matter jurisdiction to issue the summons and force the Responding Insurers' compliance with payment of Schmill benefits and withholding of proper attorney fees.

Responding Insurers, like the insurers in *Rausch/Ruhd* who moved to quash the Court's summons in that case, assert that the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the common fund proceedings because no person with standing has filed a claim against them. Additionally, Responding Insurers argue that there have been no mediations of any claims for *Schmill* benefits against them, which likewise deprives the Court of jurisdiction.

As the Court noted in its Order Denying Motion to Quash Summons and Objection in *Rausch/Ruhd*, the Court has jurisdiction over the common fund proceedings by virtue of the vested right *Schmill* claimants have to payment of those benefits. (Ex. 11, *Rausch/Ruhd* Order, ¶4.) The WCC's jurisdiction extends to all benefit issues. §39-71-2905, MCA. Responding Insurer's brief makes it clear that many workers' compensation insurers in Montana have not and do not intend to abide by their duty to pay *Schmill* benefits absent additional court intervention. The insurers' actions alone, therefore, are sufficient to trigger the Court's jurisdiction. Moreover, since the benefits are due and owing there is no "dispute" which needs to be mediated.

## IV. Workers' compensation insurers and self-insured employers have a duty to pay Schmill benefits.

Responding Insurers argue that they should not be required to solicit claims in order for *Schmill* claimants to be paid the benefits they are due. In fact, Responding Insurers go so far as to argue that the *Schmill* claimants "have the burden to prove the affirmative - i.e., that they are entitled to the benefits they seek . . ." and, further, that *Schmill* claimants "have a duty to identify themselves and [it is] not Responding Insurers' duty to do so at great burden and expense." (Responding Insurers' Brief, p. 19.)

Neither position espoused by Responding Insurers has legal support as both are founded on the incorrect premise that the *Schmill* claimants do not have a vested right in being paid *Schmill* benefits. As was previously cited, the decisions in *Murer* and *Ruhd* hold otherwise. *Schmill* claimants acquired a vested right to *Schmill* benefits as soon as the decisions in *Schmill I* and *Schmill II* were issued. With that right came the corresponding duty on the part of all workers' compensation insurers and self-insured employers to pay those benefits, any expense and cost to the insurers notwithstanding.

This Court rejected the Responding Insurers' "solicitation" argument in the Order Denying Motion to Quash Summons and Objections in *Rausch/Ruhd* for the reasons stated above. The Court also noted that since the Court had the duty "to enforce the common fund created by *Rausch*[,] [t]hat duty require[d] it to compel each insurer and self-insurer to identify the claimants' entitled to [benefits] and pay those [benefits], as well as enforce the common fund attorney lien." (*Rausch/Ruhd* Order, ¶6.) The same reasoning applies in this case.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Schmill claimants acquired a vested right to benefits as soon as the decisions in Schmill I and Schmill II were issued. That vested right to benefits does not depend in any way on the status of the Responding Insurers as either parties or non-parties to the underlying Schmill litigation. That vested right rose as a matter of law and imposes a corresponding duty on the Responding Insurers to pay appropriate Schmill benefits. Moreover, to the extent the Responding Insurers wanted to challenge any of the legal holdings in Schmill I or Schmill II, they could have followed the lead of the State Fund and filed amicus briefs and/or intervened in the underlying claim. Having done neither, the Responding Insurers have no position from which to argue that they were denied due process.

The remaining arguments put forth by the Responding Insurers have already been decided by either the Montana Supreme Court or this Court with regard to other common fund litigation. None of the arguments have merit and should be summarily denied.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the Petitioner respectfully requests that the Responding Insurers' Motion to Dismiss be denied.

DATED this \_\_\_\_ of May, 2008.

#### ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

BOTHE & LAURIDSEN, P.C. P.O. Box 2020 Columbia Falls, MT 59912 Telephone: (406) 892-2193

LAURIE WALLACE

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, Robin Stephens, do hereby certify that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2008, I served a true and accurate copy of the PETITIONER'S RESPONSE TO RESPONDING INSURERS' "GATEWAY LEGAL ISSUES" AND MOTION TO DISMISS by U.S. mail, first class, postage prepaid to the following:

Mr. Bradley J. Luck Mr. Malin Stearns Johnson GARLINGTON, LOHN & ROBINSON, PLLP 199 West Pine . P.O. Box 7909 Missoula, MT 59807-7909

Mr. Greg Overturf Legal Counsel Montana State Fund P.O. Box 4759

Mr. Larry Jones Liberty NW Ins. Corporation 700 SW Higgins, Ste. 108 Missoula, MT 59803-1489

Mr. Steven Jennings CROWLEY, HAUGHEY, HANSON, TOOLE & DIETRICH P.O. Box 2529 Billings, MT 59103-2529 Mr. Geoffrey Keller MATOVICH & KELLER, PC P.O. Box 1098 Billings, MT 59103-1098

Robin Stephens

Geoffrey R. Keller MATOVICH & KELLER, P.C. 225 First Citizens Bank Bldg. 2812 First Avenue North Billings, Montana 59101 Telephone: (406) 252-5500 Mediator

## IN THE WORKER'S COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

	)
CASSANDRA SCHMILL,	) 2001 MTWCC 36
Plaintiff,	) WCC No. 2001-0300
-vs-	)
LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORPORATION,	) )
Respondent/Insurer for	)
MURALT'S TRUCK PLAZA,	)
Employer.	) ) ,,)
As a result of this conference, this case is:	
A. SETTLED	
1) Settlement agreement to be prepare	ed by ( <u>name</u> ) by ( <u>date</u> ).

X_B. NOT SETTLED
C. Appellant Cross-appellant will not pursue this appeal.
DATED this 12th day of October, 2001.
By Geoffrey R Keller Mediator

2) Stipulation for dismissal to be filed within fifteen days of the date of this order.

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Case No. 01-663

## CASSANDRA SCHMILL

Petitioner and Respondent,

VS.

LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORP.

Respondent, Appellant and Insurer for

MURALT'S TRUCK PLAZA,

Employer.

## MOTION OF STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND FOR LEAVE TO FILE BRIEF OF AN AMICUS CURIAE

On Appeal from the Workers' Compensation Court of the State of Montana WCC No. 2001-0300

Larry W. Jones
Liberty Northwest Insurance Corp.
700SW Higgins Avenue, Suite 250
Missoula, MT 59803-3620
Attorney for Respondent, Appellant, and Insurer For Muralt's Truck Plaza

David A. Hawkins, Legal Counsel Special Assistant Attorneys General State Compensation Insurance Fund PO Box 4759 Helena, Montana 59604-4759 Attorney for Amicus Curiae

Laurie Wallace Bothe & Lauridsen, P.C. P.O. Box 2020 Columbia Falls, MT 59912 Attorney for Petitioner and Respondent

EXHIBIT 2

RECEIVED JAN 1

COMES NOW the State Compensation Insurance Fund, by and through its attorneys of record, and moves the Supreme Court for leave to file a brief as amicus curiae in this case. This motion is made in accordance with Rules of Appellate Procedure, Rule 24.

The interest of the State Compensation Insurance Fund in this matter is based on the following:

- 1. The State Compensation Insurance Fund is the Plan 3 workers compensation insurance carrier in the State of Montana, and has approximately 26,252 policyholders. This case concerns the insured status of those insureds and their employees.
  - 2. The Workers' Compensation Court held:

The apportionment provision of the ODA, § 39-72-706, MCA (1989-1999), violates the Equal Protection Clauses of the United States and Montana Constitutions. Therefore, claimants under the ODA are entitled to full benefits without any reduction based upon the contribution of non-occupational factors. Attorney fees and a penalty are denied since the insurer was entitled to rely on the presumption that the provisions of the ODA are constitutional.

3. As a result of the Workers' Compensation Court decision in this case, the State Compensation Insurance Fund, employers in the state of Montana and its citizens will share in the increase cost of implementing a drastic deviation from what the legislature clearly intended.

4. The State Compensation Insurance Fund is therefore interested in the outcome of this case for the reason that the decision of the Court will substantially affect the contract rights, duties and responsibilities of the State Compensation Insurance Fund, and State Compensation Insurance Fund's policyholders.

5. An amicus curiae brief by the State Compensation Insurance Fund is desirable in this case as it will help articulate the views of workers compensation insurance carriers of Montana on the issues in this case. Workers' compensation insurance carriers' rights and duties, and in particular those of the State Compensation Insurance Fund, are directly at issue in case, and those interests should be represented in this matter.

6. The undersigned legal counsel for the State Compensation Insurance Fund has contacted Larry W. Jones, legal counsel for Liberty Northwest Insurance Corporation, concerning this motion and he has no objection. Laurie Wallace, legal counsel for Cassandra Schmill, was contacted and has no objection as long as the brief is filed within one week.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 9<sup>TH</sup> day of January, 2002.

STATE COMPENSATION INSURANCE FUND

David A. Hawkins,

Special Assistant Attorney General

Attorney for Amicus Curiae,

State Compensation Insurance Fund

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing on the following parties:

Larry W. Jones Senior Attorney Liberty Northwest Insurance Corporation 700 SW Higgins Avenue, Suite 250 Missoula, MT 59803-3620

Laurie Wallace Bothe & Lauridsen, P.C. P.O. Box 2020 Columbia Falls, MT 59912

by depositing the same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, on this  $9^{7H}$  day of January 2002.

David A. Hawkins

## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Rule 27 of the Montana Rules of Appellate Procedure, I certify that this Motion is printed with a proportionately spaced Times New Roman text typeface of 14 points; is double spaced; and the word count calculated is not more than 5,000 for Amicus, averaging not more than 280 words per page, excluding certificate of service and certificate of compliance.

DATED this 27th day of January 2002.

David A. Hawkins, Legal Counsel

State Compensation Insurance Fund

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Case No. 01-663

#### CASSANDRA SCHMILL

Petitioner and Respondent,

VS.

## LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORP.,

Respondent, Appellant and Insurer for

MURALT'S TRUCK PLAZA, Employer.

## ORDER GRANTING LEAVE TO APPEAR IN AMICUS CURIAE AND SETTING DATE CERTAIN TO FILE AMICI CURIAE BRIEFS

Pursuant to Rule 24, M.R.App.P., counsel for the State Compensation Insurance Fund, have filed herein motions for leave to appear *amicus curiae* in this matter. Good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that the motions of State Compensation Insurance Fund for leave to appear *amicus curiae* are granted. State Compensation Insurance Fund shall prepare, file and serve their *amicus curiae* briefs, containing as little repetitive argument and authorities as possible, within 7 days of the date of this Order; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent's brief in response to the briefs of any *amicus curiae* adverse to its position shall be prepared and filed and served with 7 days thereafter.

The Clerk of Court is directed to mail a copy of this Order to all counsel of record, including *amicus curiae* granted leave to appear in this matter.

DATED this	day of January, 2002.
	Chief Justice
	-
S.	
	Justices

## IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

WCC No. 2000-0023R1 WCC No. 2000-0030R1 WCC No. 9907-8274R1 FILED

JAN 23 2003

CHARLES FISCH, WORKER'S COMPENSATION JUDGE individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,

THOMAS FROST, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,

and

ALEXIS RAUSCH as Conservator for Kevin Rausch, and on behalf of others similarly situated

**Petitioners** 

VS.

#### MONTANA STATE FUND

Respondent.

#### NOTICE OF CLAIM OF ATTORNEY LIEN

To: All insurers and self insurers writing or maintaining workers' compensation coverage in the State of Montana on or after July 1, 1991.

Flease take notice that pursuant to the *common fund doctrine* and the decision of the Montana Supreme Court in *Rausch*, et al. v. State Compensation Insurance Fund, 2002 MT 203, the attorneys in the above-entitled matter claim a lien with regard to impairment awards paid to permanently totally disabled claimants in accordance with the Court's decision. Copies of the Supreme Court decision and the attorneys' lien notice, as filed with the Court, are attached hereto.

The mailing certificate for this Notice of Claim of Attorney Lien is on file with the Workers' Compensation Court, P.O. Box 537, Helena, MT 59624-0537.

DATED in Helena, Montana, this 2324 day of January, 2003.

(SEAL)

//Mre//Utal

EXHIBIT

JAN

A T & T COMMUNICATIONS INC 295 N MAPLE AVE BASKING RIDGE NJ 07920 0000

ACCEPTANCE INDEMNITY INS CO 300 W BROADWAY STE #100 PO BOX 4017 COUNCIL BLUFFS IA 51503 9094

ACE AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY 1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 14 P PHILADELPHIA PA 19101 1484

ACE AMERICAN REINSURANCE CO 2 LIBERTY PLACE PHILADELPHIA PA 19192

ACE FIRE UNDERWRITERS INS CO 1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 30 D PHILADELPHIA PA 19101 1484

ACE INDEMNITY INSURANCE COMPANY 1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 30D PHILADELPHIA PA 19101 1484

ACE PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO 1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 14 P PO BOX 41484 PHILADELPHIA PA 19101 1484

ADVANTAGE WORKERS COMP INS CO PO BOX 571918 SALT LAKE CITY UT 84157 1918

AIG NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY 4501 NORTHPOINT PKWY 500 PO BOX 1802 ALPHARETTA GA 30023 1802 AIU INSURANCE CO 175 WATER ST 18TH FL NEW YORK NY 10038

ALAMANCE INSURANCE COMPANY 238 INTERNATIONAL RD BURLINGTON NC 27215 0000

ALASKA NATIONAL INSURANCE CO 7001 JEWEL LAKE RD ANCHORAGE AK 99502 0000

ALBERTSONS INC PO BOX 27447 SALT LAKE CITY UT 84127 0447

ALLIANZ INSURANCE CO 3400 RIVERSIDE DR STE #300 P O BOX 7780 BURBANK CA 91510

ALLIED MUTUAL INSURANCE CO P O BOX 974 DES MOINES IA 50304 0974

ALLMERICA FINANCIAL ALLIANCE INS CO 100 N PARKWAY WORCESTER MA 01605 0000

ALLSTATE INSURANCE CO 4400 COLLEGE BLVD STE #200 SHAWNEE MISSION KS 66211 2329

AMCO INSURANCE COMPANY 701 FIFTH AVE DES MOINES IA 50391 2000

AMERICAN & FOREIGN INS CO 9300 ARROWPOINT BLVD PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201

AMERICAN ALTERNATIVE INS CORP 555 COLLEGE ROAD EAST PRINCETON NJ 08543 5241

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR CASUALTY CO 1100 ARLINGTON HTS STE 300 ITASCA IL 60143 3104

AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE INS CO 777 SAN MARIN DR P O BOX 777 NOVATO CA 94998

AMERICAN CAS CO OF READING PA CNA PLAZA 32S CHICAGO IL 60685

AMERICAN CENTENNIAL INSURANCE CO 3501 SILVERSIDE RD STE #203 WILMINGTON DE 19810 4910

AMERICAN CENTRAL INS CO ONE BEACON ST BOSTON MA 02108

AMERICAN COMMERCE INS CO 3590 TWIN CREEK DR COLUMBUS OH 43204 0000

AMERICAN CONTINENTAL INSURANCE COMPANY 540 LAKE COOK RD DEERFIELD IL 60015 5290

AMERICAN DRUG STORES INC PO BOX 26948 SALT LAKE CITY UT 84126 0948

AMERICAN ECONOMY INS CO 4333 BROOKLYN AVE NE SEATTLE WA 98185

AMERICAN EMPLOYERS
INSURANCE CO
1 BEACON ST
BOSTON MA 02108
AMERICAN FIRE & CASUALTY
COMPANY
9450 SEWARD RD
FAIRFIELD OH 45014 5456

AMERICAN FUJI FIRE &
MARINE INS CO
2 LOGAN SQ STE #2121
PHILADELPHIA PA 19103 0000

AMERICAN GENERAL CORP 3910 KESWICK RD PO BOX 1228 BALTIMORE MD 21203 AMERICAN GUARANTEE & LIABILITY INS CO 1400 AMERICAN LANE SCHAUMBURG IL 60196 1056

AMERICAN HARDWARE MUTUAL INS CO 471 E BROAD ST COLUMBUS OH 43215

AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE CO 175 WATER ST 18TH FL NEW YORK NY 10038

AMERICAN INSURANCE CO 777 SAN MARIN DR NOVATO CA 94998

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC INS CO 175 WATER ST 18TH FL NEW YORK NY 10038

AMERICAN INTERSTATE INS CO 2301 HIGHWAY 190 W DERRIDDER LA 70634

AMERICAN LIBERTY INSURANCE CO POB 712 DES MOINES IA 50303 0712

AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS MUTUAL 1 KEMPER DR LONG GROVE IL 60049 0001

AMERICAN MOTORISTS INSURANCE CO ONE KEMPER DR LONG GROVE IL 60049 0001

AMERICAN PROTECTION INSURANCE CO ONE KEMPER DR LONG GROVE IL 60049 0001

AMERICAN RE INSURANCE COMPANY 555 COLLEGE RD E PO BOX 5241 PRINCETON NJ 08543 5241 AMERICAN RISK FUNDING INS CO 12222 MERIT DR STE 1660 DALLAS TX 75251 0000

AMERICAN STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY OF WISCONSIN 6000 AMERICAN PARKWAY MADISON WI 53873 0001

AMERICAN STATES INS CO 4333 BROOKLYN AVE NE SEATTLE WA 98185

AMERICAN STATES PREFERRED SAFECO PLAZA 4333 BROOKLYN AVE NE SEATTLE WA 98185

AMERICAN SUMMIT INS CO 14805 N 73RD ST SCOTTSDALE AZ 85206 0000

AMERICAN WEST INSURANCE CO 1101 FIRST AVE N PO BOX 2502 FARGO ND 58108 2502

AMERICAN ZURICH INSURANCE CO 1400 N AMERICAN LN T1/14TH FL SCHAUMBERG IL 60196

AMERICAS INSURANCE COMPANY 400 POYDRAS ST STE 900 NEW ORLEANS LA 70130 0000

AMERISURE MUTUAL INSURANCE CO 26777 HALSTED RD PO BOX 2060 FARMINGTON HILLS MI 48333 2060

ANR FREIGHT SYSTEMS INC % EL PASO CORP 1001 LOUISIANA STE 2202 HOUSTON TX 77002

**ARGONAUT INSURANCE CO** 

250 MIDDLEFIELD RD STE #120 MENLO PARK CA 94025

ARGONAUT MIDWEST INS CO 250 MIDDLEFIELD RD STE 120 MENLO PARK CA 94025 3507

ARGONAUT NORTHWEST INS CO 10101 REUNION PL STE 500 SAN ANTONIO TX 78216 4156

ASARCO INC 2575 E CAMELBACK RD STE 500 PHOENIX AZ 85016 0000

ASH GROVE CEMENT CO 8900 INDIAN CRK PKWY ST 600 PO BOX 25900 OVERLAND PARK KS 66225 5900

ASSOCIATED INDEMNITY CORP 777 SAN MARIN DR NOVATO CA 94998

ASSOCIATED LOGGERS EXCHANGE PO BOX 16410 BOISE ID 83715 0000

ASSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA PO BOX 1228 BALTIMORE MD 21203

ATHENA ASSURANCE CO 385 WASHINGTON ST ST PAUL MN 55102

ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL INS CO 7230 MCGINNIS FERRY RD 300 SUWANEE GA 30024 1245

ATLANTA SPECIALTY INS CO PO BOX 105435 ATLANTA GA 30348 5435

ATLANTIC MUTUAL INSURANCE CO 100 WALL ST NEW YORK NY 10005 1101

ATLAS ASSURANCE CO OF AMERICA 62 MAPLE AVE KEENE NH 03431 0000

AUTOMOBILE INS CO OF HARTFORD ONE TOWER SQUARE HARTFORD CT 06183 1190

AVOMARK INS CO 9450 SEWARD RD FAIRFIELD OH 45014 0000

AXA CORPORATE SOLUTIONS INSURANCE CO ONE SEAPORT PLAZA 199 WATER ST NEW YORK NY 100387 3526

AXA RE AMERICA INS CO 17 STATE ST NEW YORK NY 10004 1501

BANKERS MULTIPLE LINE INS CO 12001 N CENTRAL EXPY PO BOX 749005 DALLAS TX 75374 9005

BANKERS STANDARD FIRE & MARINE
1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 30D
PHILADELPHIA PA 19101 1484

BANKERS STANDARD INSURANCE CO 1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 14 P PHILADELPHIA PA 19101 1484

BENCHMARK INSURANCE COMPANY 6701W 64TH ST STE 125 BLD 5 SHAWNEE MISSION KS 66202 0000

BENEFIS HEALTH CARE 1101 26TH ST S GREAT FALLS MT 59405

BERKLEY REGIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY

165 MASON ST PO BOX 2518 GREENWICH CT 06836 2518

BIRMINGHAM FIRE INS CO OF PA 70 PINE ST NEW YORK NY 10270

BITUMINOUS CASUALTY CORP 320 18TH ST ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

BITUMINOUS FIRE & MARINE INS CO 320 18TH ST ROCK ISLAND IL 61201

BORDEN INC 180 E BROAD ST COLUMBUS OH 43215 3799

BOSTON OLD COLONY INS CO CNA PLAZA CHIGACO IL 60685

BRISTOL WEST INSURANCE COMPANY 6150 OAK TREE BLVD STE 500 INDEPENDENCE OH 44131 0000

BROTHERHOOD MUTUAL INS CO 6400 BROTHERHOOD WAY PO BOX 2227 FORT WAYNE IN 46801 2227

BROWNING FERRIS INDUSTRIES INC % ALLIED WASTE 15880 N GRNWY STE 100 SCOTTSDALE AZ 85260

BURLINGTON NORTHERN RAILROAD PROP 176 EAST 5TH ST ST PAUL MN 55164

CALIFORNIA COMPENSATION INS CO PO BOX 9850 CALABASAS CA 91372 9850 CALIFORNIA INDEMNITY INS CO 2720 TENAYA WAY #2716-6 PO BOX 14910 LAS VEGAS NV 89114 4910

CAMDEN FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCATION ONE BEACON ST BOSTON MA 02108

CASUALTY RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE 9201 STATE LINE RD KANSAS CITY MO 64114

CATERPILLAR INSURANCE COMPANY 2120 W END AVE NASHVILLE TN 37203 0000

CENEX HARVEST STATES COOPS P O BOX 64089 ST PAUL MN 55164 4089

CENTENNIAL INSURANCE CO 140 BROADWAY 34TH FL NEW YORK NY 10005 1101

CENTRE INSURANCE COMPANY ONE CHASE MANHATTAN DR NEW YORK NY 10005

CENTURY INDEMNITY CO 1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 30 D PHILADELPHIA PA 19192

CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL CORP % INTERNATIONL PAPER 6400 POPLAR TOWER II 5 232 MEMPHIS TN 38197 0000

CHARTER OAK FIRE INSURANCE CO 1 TOWER SQUARE 4CR HARTFORD CT 06183 9070

CHARTWELL REINSURANCE COMPANY 1 CANTERBURY GRN STAMFORD CT 06901 2032

CHEVRON CORP 225 BUSH ST SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104

CHUBB INDEMNITY INS CO 15 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD WARREN NJ 07059 1615

CHUBB NATIONAL INS CO 15 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD PO BOX 1615 WARREN NJ 07061 1615

CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE CO 445 FIFTH AVE NEW YORK NY 10062

CIM INSURANCE CORPORATION 3044 W GRAND BLVD PO BOX 5074 SOUTHFIELD MI 48086 0000

CIMARRON INSURANCE CO 101 N MAIN ST CIMARRON KS 67835

CINCINNATI CASUALTY COMPANY PO BOX 145596 CINCINNATI OH 45250 5496

CINCINNATI INDEMNITY COMPANY PO BOX 145496 CINCINNATI OH 45250 5496

CINCINNATI INSURANCE CO P O BOX 145496 CINCINNATI OH 45250 5496

CITY INSURANCE CO 59 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK NY 10038

CLARENDON NATIONAL INS CO 44TH & 45TH FL 1177 AVE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK NY 10036

COLONIAL AMERICAN
CASUALTY &
SURETY
300 ST PAUL PL
BALTIMORE MD 21202 0000

COLONIAL PENN FRANKLIN INS CO 200 N MARTINGALE RD SCHAUMBURG IL 60173 0000

COLUMBUS HOSPITAL CORP PO BOX 5013 500 15TH AVE S GREAT FALLS MT 59403 5013

COMBINED BENEFITS INS CO 2925 PALMER ST STE A PO BOX 3537 MISSOULA MT 59806 2167

COMBINED SPECIALTY
INSURANCE
COMPANY
1000 N MILWAUKEE AVE 6TH
FL
GLENVIEW IL 60025 0000

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY INSURANCE CO 175 WATER ST 18TH FL NEW YORK NY 10038

COMMERCIAL CASUALTY INS CO 2720 TENAYA WAY #2716-6 PO BOX 14910 LAS VEGAS NV 89114 4910

COMMERCIAL COMPENSATION CASUALTY INS CO PO BOX 9850 CALABASAS CA 91372 0850

COMMERCIAL INS CO OF NEWARK NJ CNA PLAZA CHICAGO IL 60685

COMMERCIAL LOAN INS CORP 2 PLAZA E STE 1280 330 E KILBOURN AVE MILWAUKEE WI 53202 0000

COMPASS INSURANCE COMPANY 709 CURTIS STREET MIDDLETOWN OH 45044 3999

CONAGRA FOODS INC %AON RISK CONSULTANTS 8300 NORMAN CNTR DR ST 400 MINNEAPOLIS MN 55437 3844

CONNECTICUT INDEMNITY CO PO BOX 1000 CHAROLOTTE NC 28201 1000

CONOCO INC PO BOX 2197 HOUSTON TX 77252 2197

CONOCO PIPELINE CO PO BOX 2197 HOUSTON TX 77252

CONSOLIDATED FREIGHTWAYS CORP PO BOX 4150 PORTLAND OR 97208 4150

CONTINENTAL BAKING CO %INTERSTATE BRANDS 12 E ARMOUR BLVD KANSAS CITY MO 64111

CONTINENTAL CASUALTY CO CNA PLAZA 32S ATT STATISTICAL RE CHICAGO IL 60685

CONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO CNA PLAZA CHICAGO IL 60685

CONTINENTAL NATIONAL INDEMNITY CNA PLAZA CHICAGO IL 60685 0000

CONTINENTAL WESTERN INS CO 11201 DOUGLAS, POB 1594 PO BOX 1594 DES MOINES IA 50306

CONVERIUM INSURANCE (NORTH AMERICA) INC 1 CHASE MANHATTAN PLZ NEW YORK NY 10005 0000

CONVERIUM REINSURANCE (NORTH AMERICA) INC 1 CHASE MANHATTAN PLZ NEW YORK NY 10005 0000

CORE INSURANCE COMPANY 131 CHURCH ST STE 201 BURLINGTON VT 05401 0000

COREGIS INSURANCE COMPANY 525 W VAN BUREN STE #500 CHICAGO IL 60607

COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP 999 LAKE DR ISSAQUAH WA 98027

COUNTRY CASUALTY INS CO 1701 N TOWANDA AVE PO BOX 2100 BLOOMINGTON IL 61702 2100

COUNTRY MUTUAL INS CO 1701 TOWANDA AVE PO BOX 2100 BLOOMINGTON IL 61701 2100

COUNTRY PREFERRED INS CO 1701 N TOWANDA AVE PO BOX 2100 BLOOMINGTON IL 61701 0000

CREDIT GENERAL INSURANCE CO 1366 DUBLIN RD #D5 COLUMBUS OH 43215 1093

CUMIS INSURANCE SOCIETY INC PO BOX 1221 MADISON WI 53701 0000

CYPRUS MINES
CORPORATION
%PHELPS DODGE
ONE NORTH CENTRAL
PHOENIX AZ 85004

DAIRYLAND INSURANCE COMPANY 1800 N POINT DR STEVENS POINT WI 54481

DAKOTA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY PO BOX 712 DES MOINES IA 50303 0712 DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION %ZURICH US 1400 AMERICAN LN SCHAUMBURG IL 60196

DISCOVER PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO 385 WASHINGTON ST MC514A ST PAUL MN 55102

ECONOMY FIRE & CASUALTY CO 700 QUAKER LN PO BOX 350 WARWICK RI 02887

ECONOMY PREFERRED INS CO 700 QUAKER LN PO BOX 350 WARWICK RI 02887 0000

ECONOMY PREMIER ASSURANCE CO 700 QUAKER LN PO BOX 350 WARWICK RI 02887

ELECTRIC INSURANCE CO 152 CONANT ST PO BOX 1027 BEVERLY MA 01915

EMCASCO INSURANCE COMPANY 717 MULBERRY ST PO BOX 712 DES MOINES IA 50303 0712

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INS CO PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201 1000

EMPLOYERS CASUALTY COMPANY IN RECEIVERSHIP EMPLOYERS INS BLDG PO BOX 2759 DALLAS TX 75221

EMPLOYERS FIRE INSURANCE CO 1 BEACON ST BOSTON MA 02108 EMPLOYERS FIRST INSURANCE COMPANY 500 N BRAND BLVD GLENDALE CA 91203

EMPLOYERS INS OF WAUSAU MUTUAL CO PO BOX 4025 BEAVERTON OR 97076 4025

EMPLOYERS MUTUAL CASUALTY CO PO BOX 712 DES MOINES IA 50303 0712

EMPLOYERS REINSURANCE CORP PO BOX 2991 OVERLAND PARK KS 66201 1391

ENTECH INC 40 W BROADWAY BUTTE MT 59701

EVANSTON INSURANCE COMPANY SHAND MORAHAN & CO INC 10 PARKWAY N DEERFIELD IL 60015 2544

EVEREST NATIONAL INS CO 477 MARTINSVILLE RD PO BOX 830 LIBERTY CORNER NJ 07938 0830

EVERGREEN NATIONAL INDEMNITY PO BOX 163340 COLUMBUS OH 43216 3340 EXPLORER INSURANCE COMPANY PO BOX 85563 SAN DIEGO CA 92186 5563

F H STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO 2497 SEVENTH AVE E STE 105 NORTH ST PAUL MN 55109

FACTORY MUTUAL INS CO ALLENDALE PARK PO BOX 7500 JOHNSTON RI 02919 0000 FAIRFIELD INSURANCE COMPANY 695 E MAIN ST PO BOX 10350 STAMFORD CT 06904

FAIRMONT INSURANCE CO 5205 N O'CONNER ST 2ND FL PO BOX 152870 IRVING TX 75005 2870

FARMERS INSURANCE EXCHANGE 4700 WILSHIRE BLVD PO BOX 2478 LOS ANGELES CA 90051 2478

FARMINGTON CASUALTY CO ONE TOWER SQUARE HARTFORD CT 06183 1190

FARMLAND MUTUAL INSURANCE CO 1963 BELL AV DES MOINES IA 50315

FEDERAL EXPRESS CORP 2007 CORP PLZ 3RD FL MEMPHIS TN 38132

FEDERAL INSURANCE CO 15 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD PO BOX 1615 WARREN NJ 07061 1615

FEDERATED MUTUAL INSURANCE CO 121 E PARK SQ PO BOX 328 OWATONNA MN 55060 0328

FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC INS EXCHANGE 11875 W 85 ST PO BOX 15147 LENEXA KS 66214 5147

FEDERATED SERVICE INSURANCE CO 121 E PARK SQ PO BOX 328 OWATONNA MN 55060 0328

FEDEX GROUND PACKAGE SYSTEM INC 3925 EMBASSY PARKWAY PO BOX 5459 AKRON OH 44334 0459

FIDELITY & CASUALTY CO OF NEW YORK CNA PLAZA CHICAGO IL 60685

FIDELITY & DEPOSIT CO OF MARYLAND 1400 AMERICAN LN TOWER #11 SCHAUMBURG IL 60196 1056

FIDELITY & GUARANTY INS CO 385 WASHINGTON ST ST PAUL MN 55102 1396

FIDELITY & GUARANTY INS UNDERWRITERS 385 WASHINGTON ST ST PAUL MN 55102 1396

FIRE & CASUALTY INS CO OF CONN PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201 1000

FIREMANS FUND INS CO 777 SAN MARIN DR PO BOX 777 NOVATO CA 94998 0777

FIREMANS FUND INS CO OF OHIO 777 SAN MARIN DRIVE NAVATO CA 94998 0000

FIREMANS FUND INS CO OF WISCONSIN 777 SAN MARIN DR PO BOX 777 NOVATO CA 94998 0777

FIREMENS INS CO OF NEWARK NJ CNA PLAZA CHICAGO IL 60685

FIRST FINANCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY 238 INTERNATIONAL RD BURLINGTON NC 27215 FIRST LIBERTY INSURANCE CORPORTION MAILSTOP 3E 175 BERKELEY ST BOSTON MA 02117

FIRST NATIONAL INS CO OF AMERICA SAFECO PLAZA SEATTLE WA 98185

FLORISTS MUTUAL INSURANCE CO #1 HORTICULTURAL LN EDWARDSVILLE IL 62025

FLYING J INC 4185 S HARRISON BLVD STE 320 OGDEN UT 84403

FORT WAYNE HEALTH & CASUALTY INS CO 1 REINSURANCE PL 1700 MA FORT WAYNE IN 46804 0000

FORUM INSURANCE CO 200 N MARTINGALE RD SCHAUMBURG IL 60173 2096

FRANKENMUTH MUTUAL INS CO ONE MUTUAL AVE FRANKENMUTH MI 48787 0001

FREMONT COMPENSATION INS CO 500 N BRAND BLVD GLENDALE CA 91203 3392

FREMONT IND CO OF THE NORTHWEST 1601 FIFTH AVE STE 1300 SEATTLE WA 98101

FREMONT INDEMNITY CO 12301 NE 19TH PL STE #300 BELLEVUE WA 98005 2487

FREMONT INDEMNITY CO 500 N BRAND BLVD GLENDALE CA 91203

FREMONT PACIFIC INSURANCE CO

500 N BRAND BLVD GLENDALE CA 91203

FRONTIER INSURANCE COMPANY 195 LAKE LOUISE MARIE RD ROCK HILL NY 12775 0000

GEICO CASUALTY COMPANY ONE GEICO PLAZA WASHINGTON DC 20076 0001

GEICO INDEMNITY COMPANY ONE GEICO PLAZA WASHINGTON DC 20047

GENERAL CASUALTY CO OF WISCONSIN ONE GENERAL DR SUN PRAIRIE WI 53596

GENERAL INS CO OF AMERICA SAFECO PLAZA SEATTLE WA 98185

GENERAL REINSURANCE CORP 695 E MAIN ST STAMFORD CT 06904 2350

GENESIS INSURANCE COMPANY 695 E MAIN ST PO BOX 10354 STAMFORD CT 06904 0354

GEORGIA PACIFIC CORP 133 PEACHTREE ST NE ATLANTA GA 30303

GLENS FALLS INSURANCE CO CNA PLAZA CHICAGO IL 60685

GLOBE INDEMNITY CO 9300 ARROWPOINT BLVD PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201 1000

GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINES INC 1 CALIFORNIA ST STE 2500 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INS CO ONE GEICO PLAZA WASHINGTON DC 20047

GRANITE STATE INSURANCE CO 70 PINE ST NEW YORK NY 10270

GRAY INSURANCE COMPANY PO BOX 6202 METAIRIE LA 70009 6202

GREAT AMERICAN ALLIANCE INS CO 580 WALNUT ST PO BOX 2575 CINCINNATI OH 45201 2575

GREAT AMERICAN ASSURANCE CO 580 WALNUT ST P O BOX 2575 CINCINNATI OH 45202 2575

GREAT AMERICAN INS CO OF NEW YORK 580 WALNUT ST P O BOX 2575 CINCINNATI OH 45201 2575

GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE CO 580 WALNUT ST PO BOX 2575 CINCINNATI OH 45201 2575

GREAT MIDWEST INS CO 9821 KATY FREEWAY STE 850 HOUSTON TX 77024 1206

GREAT NORTHERN INSURANCE CO 15 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD PO BOX 1615 WARREN NJ 07061 1615

GREAT WEST CASUALTY CO 1100 W 29TH ST PO BOX 277 SOUTH SIOUX CITY NE 68776 0277

GREENWICH INSURANCE COMPANY SEAVIEW HOUSE 70 SEAVIEW AVE STAMFORD CT 06902 6040

GREYHOUND LINES INC %WILLIS OF ARIZONA 11201 N TATUM BLVD STE 300 PHOENIX AZ 85028 GROCERS INSURANCE COMPANY P O BOX 22146 PORTLAND OR 97269

GUARANTEE INSURANCE CO 650 NAAMANS RD STE 301 CLAYTON DE 19703

GUIDANT SPECIALTY MUTUAL INS CO 1111 ASHWORTH RD W DES MOINES IA 50265 0600

GUIDEONE MUTUAL INS CO 1111 ASHWORTH RD PO BOX 370 WEST DES MOINES IA 50265 0370

GULF INSURANCE CO 4600 FULLER DR IRVING TX 75038 HANOVER INSURANCE CO 100 N PARKWAY WORCESTER MA 01605 1396

HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE CO PO BOX 68309 SCHAUMBURG IL 60008

HARLEYSVILLE INSURANCE COMPANY 7900 W 78TH ST EDINA MN 55439 2523

HARTFORD ACCIDENT & INDEMNITY CO HARTFORD PLAZA HARTFORD CT 06115

HARTFORD CASUALTY INSURANCE CO HARTFORD PLAZA HARTFORD CT 06115

HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE CO HARTFORD PLAZA HARTFORD CT 06115

HARTFORD INS CO OF THE MIDWEST HARTFORD PLAZA HARTFORD CT 06115

HARTFORD UNDERWRITERS INS CO HARTFORD PLAZA HARTFORD CT 06115

HEALTHCARE UNDERWRITERS MUT INS CO 8 BRITISH AMERICAN BLVD LATHAM NY 12110 0000

HIGHLAND INSURANCE CO 10370 RICHMOND AVE HOUSTON TX 77042 4123

HIH AMERICA COMP & LIABILITY INS CO 425 MARKET ST 23RD FL SAN FRANCISCO CA 94105 2406

HOLCIM (US) INC PO BOX 122 DUNDEE MI 48131 0122

HOLLY SUGAR CORP PO BOX 9 SUGAR LAND TX 77487 0009

HOLY ROSARY HOSPITAL PO BOX 38 YANKTON SD 57078 0038

#### HOME INDEMNITY CO THE 59 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK NY 10038

HOME INSURANCE CO 59 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK NY 10038

HOMELAND CENTRAL INSURANCE CO 400 LOCUST ST STE 500 PO BOX 1848 DES MOINES IA 50306 1848

HOMESITE INSURANCE COMPANY 99 BEDFORD ST **BOSTON MA 02110** 

HORIZON CMS HEALTHCARE CORP %SOUTHERN RISK SERVICES PO BOX 2408 BIRMINGTON AL 35201 2408

HOUSTON GENERAL INSURANCE CO 10303 E DRY CRK RD STE #300 ENGLEWOOD CO 80112 0000

HUDSON INSURANCE COMPANY 22 CORTLANDT ST 18TH FL NEW YORK NY 10007 3150

ICM INSURANCE COMPANY 100 COMMONS WAY #210 HOLMDEL NJ 07733 2930

IGF INSURANCE COMPANY 4720 KINGSWAY DR INDIANAPOLIS IN 46205 0000

ILLINOIS NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY 175 WATER ST 18TH FL NEW YORK NY 10038

INDEMNITY INS CO OF NORTH AMERICA 1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 30 D PHILADELPHIA PA 19101 1484

INDIANA LUMBERMENS MUTUAL INS CO 3600 WOODVIEW TRACE PO BOX 68600 INDIANAPOLIS IN 46268

INDUSTRIAL UNDERWRITERS INS CO 500 COLONIAL PKWY STE 200 ROSWELL GA 30076 8852

INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA 1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 14 P PO BOX 41484 PHILADELPHIA PA 1910 1 1484 INSURANCE COMPANY OF STATE OF PA 70 PINE ST NEW YORK NY 10270

INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE WEST PO BOX 85563 SAN DIEGO CA 92186 5563

INSURANCE CORPORATION OF HANNOVER 333 S HOPE ST STE 2400 LOS ANGELES CA 90071

INSURANCE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK ONE CANTERBURY GREEN STAMFORD CT 06901 0000

INTEGON NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY 500 W FIFTH ST PO BOX 3199 WINSTON SALEM NC 27102 3199

INTERNATIONAL INDEMNITY CO 645 HEMBREE PKWY STE A ROSWELL GA 30076 3868

INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE CO 250 COMMERCIAL ST STE 5000 MANCHESTER NH 03101 1143

INTERNATIONAL PAPER CO 6400 POPLAR AVE TOWER II 5 232 MEMPHIS TN 38197

INTERSTATE BRANDS CORP PO BOX 419627 KANSAS CITY MO 64141 6527

IOWA MUTUAL INSURANCE CO 509 9TH ST PO BOX 60 DEWITT IA 52742 0060 J C PENNEY CORP INC % MARSH USA SIX PPG PL STE 300 PITTSBURGH PA 15222 5499

J H KELLY INC PO BOX 2038 LONGVIEW WA 98632 2038

J H KELLY L L C KELLY GROUP LLC PO BOX 2038 LONGVIEW WA 98632 2038

K MART CORP 3100 W BIG BEAVER RD TROY MI 48084 3163

KANSAS CITY FIRE & MARINE INS CO CNA PLAZA CHICAGO IL 60685

KEMPER CASUALTY INS CO ONE KEMPER DR LONG GROVE IL 60049

KEMPER EMPLOYERS INS CO ONE KEMPER DR LONG GROVE IL 60649 0001

KROGER CO THE %SMITHS FOOD & DRUG 500 N SUGAR ST LAYTON UT 84041 0000

LANCER INSURANCE COMPANY 370 WEST PARK AVE LONG BEACH NY 11561

LEADER INSURANCE COMPANY 4100 HARRY HINES BLVD DALLAS TX 75219 0000

LEGION INSURANCE CO 1 LOGAN SQ STE #1400 PHILADELPHIA PA 19103

LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTERS OF MONT INC PO BOX 667 PRINEVILLE OR 97754 0667 LEXINGTON INSURANCE COMPANY 200 STATE ST BOSTON MA 02109 0000

LIBERTY INS UNDERWRITERS INC 61 BROADWAY 25TH FL NEW YORK NY 10006 0000

LIBERTY INSURANCE CORP 175 BERKELEY ST PO BOX 140 BOSTON MA 02117 0140

LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO 175 BERKELEY ST PO BOX 140 BOSTON MA 02117 0140

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE CO 175 BERKELEY ST PO BOX 140 BOSTON MA 02117 0140

LIBERTY NORTHWEST INS CORP PO BOX 4555 PORTLAND OR 97208 4555

LM INSURANCE CORPORATION MAILSTOP 3E 175 BERKELEY ST BOSTON MA 02117

LOUISIANA PACIFIC CORP 805 SW BROADWAY PORTLAND OR 97205 0000

LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC MGR DISABILITY BENEFITS 225 SCHILLING CIRCLE HUNT VALLEY MD 21031 0000

LUMBER MUTUAL INSURANCE CO 1 SPEEN STPO PO BOX 9165 FRAMINGHAM MA 01701 9165

LUMBERMENS MUTUAL CASUALTY CO 1 KEMPER DR LONG GROVE IL 60049 LUMBERMENS UNDERWRITING ALLIANCE 2501 N MILITARY TRAIL BOCA RATON FL 33431 6398

LYNDON PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY 520 MARYSVILLE CENTRE DR STE # 500 ST LOUIS MO 63141 5814

MACO WORKERS COMP TRUST 2715 SKYWAY DR HELENA MT 59602

MAJESTIC INSURANCE COMPANY 400 SECOND ST STE 350 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94107 0000

MANUFACTURES ALLIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY 380 SENTRY PARKWAY PO BOX 3031 BLUE BELL PA 19422 0754

MARKEL INSURANCE COMPANY 4600 COX RD GLEN ALLEN VA 2 3060

MARYLAND CASUALTY CO PO BOX 1228 BALTIMORE MD 21203 1228

MEDICAL ASSURANCE CO INC 100 BROOKWOOD PL STE 500 PO BOX 590009 BIRMINGHAM AL 35259 4400

MERASTAR INSURANCE CO 537 MARKET ST STE #300 PO BOX 181101 CHATTANOOGA TN 37414 6101

METROPOLITAN DIRECT PROP & CAS INS 700 QUAKER LANE P O BOX 350 WARWICK RI 02887 METROPOLITAN GENERAL INS CO 700 QUAKER LANE PO BOX 350 WARWICK RI 02887 0350

METROPOLITAN PROP & CAS INS CO PO BOX 350 WARWICK RI 02887

MHA WORKERS COMP TRUST PO BOX 5119 HELENA MT 59604 5119

MIC GENERAL INS CORP 300 GALLERIA OFFICENTRE PO BOX 5074 SOUTHFIELD MI 48086 0000

MIC PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CORP PO BOX 5074 SOUTHFIELD MI 48086 5074

MID CENTURY INSURANCE CO 4700 WILSHIRE BLVD PO BOX 2478 LOS ANGELES CA 90051 2478

MIDDLESEX INSURANCE COMPANY 1800 N POINT DR STEVENS POINT WI 54481 0000

MIDWEST EMPLOYERS CASUALTY CO 13801 RIVERPORT DR STE 200 MARYLAND HEIGHTS MO 63043 0000

MILLERS MUTUAL INS ASSOCIATION 111 E 4TH ST PO BOX 9006 ALTON IL 62002 9006

MISSOULA COUNTY 200 W BROADWAY MISSOULA MT 59802

MISSOULA COUNTY WC GROUP INS

AUTHORITY 200 W BROADWAY MISSOULA MT 59802

MONTANA CONTRACTOR COMP FUND PO BOX 1748 GREAT FALLS MT 59403 1748

MONTANA ELECTRIC & TELEPHONE POOL 501 BAY DR GREAT FALLS MT 59404

MONTANA HEALTH NETWORK W C INS TRUST 11 S 7TH STE 241 MILES CITY MT 59301

MONTANA INS GUARANTY ASSOC 1720 SOUTH BELLAIRE STE 408 DENVER CO 80222

MONTANA LOGGERS EXCHANGE PO BOX 16237 MISSOULA MT 59808 6287

MONTANA MUNICIPAL INS AUTHORITY PO BOX 6669 HELENA MT 59604 6669

MONTANA POWER CO 40 E BROADWAY BUTTE MT 59701

MONTANA RESOURCES 600 SHIELDS AVE BUTTE MT 59701

MT SCHOOLS GROUP INS AUTHORITY PO BOX 7029 725 N MONTANA AVE HELENA MT 59604 7029

MONTGOMERY WARD & CO INC 130 E RANDOLPH ST STE 1300 CHICAGO IL 60601 MONUMENTAL GENERAL CASUALTY CO 520 PARK AVE BALTIMORE MD 21201

MOTORS INSURANCE CORPORATION PO BOX 5074 SOUTHFIELD MI 48086 5074

NABISCO INC %KRAFT FOODS THREE LAKES DRIVE NORTHFIELD IL 60093 2753

NAC REINSURANCE CORPORATION SEAVIEW HOUSE 70 SEAVIEW AVE STAMFORD CT 06902 6040

NATIONAL AMERICAN INS CO OF CA PO BOX 5808 LONG BEACH CA 90805

NATIONAL AMERICAN INSURANCE CO 1010 MANVEL AVE PO BOX 9 CHANDLER OK 74834 0009

NATIONAL COLONIAL INS, IN LIQUIDATION COLONIAL CHARTER HOLDINGS, INC P O BOX 706 RIDGEFIELD NJ 07657

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION PROP & CAS 11900 E CORNELL AVE AURORA CO 80014 3194

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION STANDARD INS 11900 E CORNELL AVE AURORA CO 80014 3194

NATIONAL FIRE INS CO OF HARTFORD CNA PLAZA 32S CHICAGO IL 60685

NATIONAL GENERAL INS CO 1 NATIONAL GENERAL PLAZA PO BOX 5074 SOUTHFIELD MI 48086 0000

NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY 3024 HARNEY ST OMAHA NE 68131 3580

NATIONAL INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS 13403 NORTHWEST FREEWAY HOUSTON TX 77040 0000

NATIONAL INTERSTATE INS CO 3250 INTERSTATE DR RICHFIELD OH 44286 9000

NATIONAL SURETY CORP 233 S WACKER DR STE 2000 CHICAGO IL 60606

NATIONAL UNION FIRE INS OF PITTSBURGH 70 PINE ST NEW YORK NY 10270

NATIONWIDE AFFINITY INS CO OF AMER PO BOX 1119 ALBANY OR 97321

NATIONWIDE AGRIBUSINESS INS CO 1963 BELL AVE DES MOINES IA 50315

NATIONWIDE INS CO OF AMERICA 902 ANN ST #A MADISON WI 53713 2404

NATIONWIDE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO ONE NATIONWIDE PLAZA MAIL CODE 1-23-15 COLUMBUS OH 43215

NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE CO ONE NATIONWIDE PLAZA MAIL CODE 1-23-15 COLUMBUS OH 43215 0000 NATIONWIDE PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO ONE NATIONWIDE PLAZA MAIL CODE 1-23-15

COLUMBUS OH 43215

NAVIGATORS INSURANCE COMPANY ONE PENN PLAZA 55TH FL NEW YORK NY 10119 0000

NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE CO 70 PINE ST NEW YORK NY 10270

NEWARK INSURANCE CO 1055 STEWART AVE PO BOX 9020 BETHPAGE NY 11714

NIAGARA FIRE INSURANCE CO CNA PLAZA CHICAGO IL 60685

NICHIDO FIRE & MARINE INS CO 175 WATER ST 18TH FL NEW YORK NY 10038

NL INDUSTRIES PO BOX 4272 16825 NORTHCHASE DR HOUSTON TX 77060 4272

NN INSURANCE COMPANY 10370 RICHMORD AVE HOUSTON TX 77042

NORTH AMERICAN ELITE INSURANCE 650 ELM ST SIXTH FL MANCHESTER NH 03101 0000

NORTH AMERICAN SPECIALTY INS CO 650 ELM ST MANCHESTER NH 03101

NORTH RIVER INSURANCE CO 305 MADISON AVE MORRISTOWN NJ 07960 0000 NORTHBROOK INDEMNITY CO 385 WASHINGTON ST ST PAUL MN 55102

NORTHBROOK PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS 385 WASHINGTON ST ST PAUL MN 55102

NORTHERN ASSURANCE CO OF AMERICA 1 BEACON ST BOSTON MA 02108

NORTHERN INS CO OF NEW YORK PO BOX 1228 BALTIMORE MD 21203 1056

NORTHLAND CASUALTY COMPANY 1295 NORTHLAND DR MENDOTA HEIGHTS MN 55120

NORTHLAND INSURANCE COMPANY 1295 NORTHLAND DR MENDOTA HEIGHTS MN 55120

NORTHWEST HEALTHCARE CORP 205 SUNNYVIEW LN KALISPELL MT 59901

NORTHWEST PHYSICIANS MUTUAL INS CO 2965 RYAN DR SE PO BOX 13400 SALEM OR 97301 1400

NORTHWESTERN ENERGY LLC 40 E BROADWAY ST BUTTE MT 59701 0000

NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL CASUALTY CO 10370 RICHMOND AVE HOUSTON TX 77042

NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL INS CO OF MIL

709 CURTIS STREET MIDDLETOWN OH 45044 3999

OCCIDENTAL FIRE & CASUALTY CO OF NC 702 OBERLIN RD PO BOX 10800 RALEIGH NC 27605 0800

ODYSSEY AMERICA REINSURANCE CORP 300 FIRST STAMFORD PL STAMFORD CT 06092 0000

ODYSSEY REINSURANCE CORP 300 FIRST STAMFORD PLACE STAMFORD CT 06902

OHIO CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY 9450 SEWARD RD FAIRFIELD OH 45014 5456

OHIO SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY 9450 SEWARD RD FAIRFIELD OH 45011 5456

OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE CO 414 W PITTSBURGH ST PO BOX 2200 GREENSBURG PA 15601

ONE BEACON AMERICA INSURANCE CO 1 BEACON ST BOSTON MA 02108

ONE BEACON INSURANCE COMPANY ONE BEACON ST BOSTON MA 02108

ORION INSURANCE COMPANY PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201 1000

OVERSEAS PARTNERS US REINSURANCE 1700 MARKET ST STE 2720 PHILADELPHIA PA 19103 0000

P P G INDUSTRIES INC 4325 ROSANNA BLDG C PO BOX 2009 ALLISON PARK PA 15101 2009

PACIFIC EMPLOYERS INSURANCE CO 1601 CHESTNUT ST TL 30 D PO BOX 41484 PHILADELPHIA PA 1910 3 1484

PACIFIC INDEMNITY CO 15 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD PO BOX 1615 WARREN NJ 07061 1615

PARTNER REINS CO OF NEW YORK 2 WORLD FIN CTR 225 LIBERTY ST 42ND FL NEW YORK NY 10281 1076

PEABODY COAL CO %BIG SKY COAL CO PO BOX 97 COLSTRIP MT 59323 0097

PENDING POLICY NOTIFICATION \*\*\*\*\* DATA ANALYSIS \*\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* P O BOX 8011 \*\*\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* HELENA MT 59604

PENN STAR INSURANCE COMPANY 420 S YORK RD HATBORO PA 19040

PENNSYLVANIA CASUALTY COMPANY ONE PHICO DR PO BOX 2021 MECHANICSBURG PA 17055 0085

PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY ONE BEACON ST BOSTON MA 02108

PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURERS ASSOC 380 SENTRY PKWY PO BOX 3031 BLUE BELL PA 19422 0000

PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURERS INDEMNITY COMPANY 380 SENTRY PARKWAY BLUE BELL PA 19422 0754

PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL MUTUAL CASUALTY PO BOX 2361 HARRISBURG PA 17105

PERMANENT GENERAL ASSURANCE CORP 301 PLUS PARK BLVD PO BOX 305054 NASHVILLE TN 37230 5054

PETROLEUM CASUALTY CO 16825 NORTHCHASE DR PO BOX 3342 HOUSTON TX 77253

PHARMACISTS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY 808 HIGHWAY #18 W PO BOX 370 ALGONA IA 50511 0000

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM CO PO BOX 52085 PHOENIX AZ 85072- 2085

PHOENIX ASSURANCE CO OF NEW YORK PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201

PHOENIX INSURANCE CO 1 TOWER SQUARE 4 CR HARTFORD CT 06183

PLUM CREEK MGMT CO LP 999 3RD AVE STE 2300 SEATTLE WA 98104 4096

PLUM CREEK TIMBER CO INC PO BOX 1990 COLUMBIA FALLS MT 59912 1990

PLUM CREEK TIMBER CO LP P O BOX 1990 500 12 AVE WEST COLUMBIA FALLS MT 59912 1990 PROFESSIONALS ADVOCATE INS CO 225 INTERNATIONAL CR HUNT VALLEY MD 21030 0000

PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO OF HARTFORD HARTFORD PLAZA HARTFORD CT 06115 0000

PROTECTIVE INSURANCE CO 1099 N MERIDIAN ST INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204

PROVIDENCE WASHINGTON INS CO ONE OLD STONE SQUARE PO BOX 518 PROVIDENCE RI 02901 0518

PUBLIC SERVICE MUTUAL INS CO 1 PARK AVE 15TH FL NEW YORK NY 10016 5802

QBE INSURANCE CORPORATION WALL STREET PLAZA 16TH FL 88 PINE ST NEW YORK NY 10005 1801

QUADRANT INDEMNITY COMPANY 15 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD WARREN NJ 07059 0000

QWEST CORPORATION 1801 CALIFORNIA ST STE 1150 DENVER CO 80202

RAMPART INSURANCE COMPANY 20 EXCHANGE PLC 11TH FL NEW YORK NY 10005 0000

RANGER INSURANCE CO PO BOX 2807 HOUSTON TX 77252 2807

REDLAND INSURANCE COMPANY 44TH & 45TH FL 1177 AVE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK NY 10036 0000 REGENT INSURANCE CO ONE GENERAL DR SUN PRAIRIE WI 53596

RELIANCE DIRECT INS CO 3 PKWY COMP DEPT 5TH FL PHILADELPHIA PA 19102

RELIANCE INSURANCE CO THREE PARKWAY 5TH FLOOR PHILADELPHIA PA 19102 1376

RELIANCE NATIONAL INDEMNITY CO 3 PARKWAY 5TH FL PHILADELPHIA PA 19102 1376

RELIANCE NATIONAL INSURANCE CO THREE PARKWAY 6TH FLOOR PHILADELPHIA PA 19102 1376

RELIANCE UNIVERSAL INS CO THREE PARKWAY COMPLIANCE DEPT 5TH FL PHILADELPHIA PA 19102 1376

REPUBLIC INDEMNITY CO OF AMERICA 15821 VENTURA BLVD STE 370 ENCINO CA 91436 2936

REPUBLIC INDEMNITY CO OF CA 15821 VENTURA BLVD STE 370 ENCINO CA 91436 2936

REPUBLIC WESTERN INSURANCE CO 2721 N CENTRAL AVE PO BOX 21551 PHOENIX AZ 85036 1551

ROCHDALE INSURANCE COMPANY 25800 SCIENCE PARK DR BEACHWOOD OH 44122 0000 ROSAUERS SUPERMARKETS INC HUMAN RESOURCES PO BOX 9000 SPOKANE WA 99209 9000 ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE PERSONAL INS CO 9300 ARROWPOINT BLVD PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201 1000

ROYAL INDEMNITY COMPANY 9300 ARROWPOINT BLVD PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201 1000

ROYAL INS CO OF AMERICA 1240 E DIEHL RD STE #500 P O BOX 314 NAPERVILLE IL 60566 0314

RYDER SYSTEMS INC 3600 NW 82ND AVE MIAMI FL 33166 6623

SAFECO INS CO OF AMERICA PO BOX 1900 LAKE OSWEGO OR 97035 0000

SAFECO INSURANCE CO OF ILLINOIS PO BOX 1900 LAKE OSWEGO OR 97035

SAFEGUARD INSURANCE COMPANY 9300 ARROWPOINT BLVD PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201 1000

SAFETY NATIONAL CASUALTY CORP 2043 WOODLAND PARKWAY ST LOUIS MO 63146 0000

SAFEWAY INC 5918 STONERIDGE MALL RD PLEASANTON CA 94588 3229

SAGAMORE INSURANCE COMPANY 1099 N MERIDIAN ST INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204 0000

SCIF HORSERACING 5 S. LAST CHANCE GULCH HELENA MT 59601 0000

SEARS ROEBUCK & CO SR RISK MGMT ANLYST 3333 BEVERLY RD B5 165B HOFFMAN ESTATES IL 60179 SEATON INSURANCE CO 1 SPEEN ST FRAMINGHAM MA 01701

SECURITY INS CO OF HARTFORD PO BOX 1000 CHARLOTTE NC 28201 1000

SECURITY NATIONAL INS CO 5701 STIRLING RD DAVIE FL 33314 7431

SELECT INSURANCE CO POB 1771 DALLAS TX 75221 1771

SENTINEL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD HARTFORD PLAZA HARTFORD CT 06115 0000

SENTRY INSURANCE MUTUAL CO 1800 N POINT DR PO BOX 8032 STEVENSPOINT WI 54481

SENTRY SELECT INSURANCE COMPANY 1800 N POINT DR STEVENS POINT WI 54481 0000

SERVICE INSURANCE COMPANY 4730 SR 64 E PO BOX 9729 BRADENTON FL 34206 9729

SHELBY CASUALTY INS CO 3760 RIVER RUN DR PO BOX 43360 BIRMINGHAM AL 35243 0360

SHELL PIPELINE CORP MARSH USA INC 1000 LOUISIANA STE 4000 HOUSTON TX 77002 5008

SHELL WESTERN E & P %MARSH USA INC 1000 LOUISIANA STE 4000 HOUSTON TX 77002 5008

SIRIUS AMERICAN INS CO 110 WILLIAM ST NEW YORK NY 10038

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH HEALTH SYSTEM 9801 RENNER BLVD STE 100 LENEXA KS 66219

SOMPO JAPAN INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA 225 LIBERTY ST #43 NEW YORK NY 10281 1008

SPECIALTY NATIONAL INS CO 1 KEMPER DR K-8 LONG GROVE IL 60049 0001

ST JOSEPH HOSPITAL CORP ST PATRICK HOSP CORP PO BOX 4587 MISSOULA MT 59806 4587

ST PATRICK HOSPITAL CORP PO BOX 4587 MISSOULA MT 59806

ST PAUL FIRE & MARINE INS CO 20800 SWENSON DR STE 300 WAUKESHA WI 53186

ST PAUL MEDICAL LIABILITY INS CO 20800 SWENSON DR STE #300 WAUKESHA WI 53186

ST PAUL MERCURY INSURANCE CO 20800 SWENSON DR STE #300 WAUKESHA WI 53186

ST THOMAS CHILD & FAMILY CNTR PO BOX 2825 GREAT FALLS MT 59403 2825

STAN WATKINS TRUCKING INC PO BOX 5328 MISSOULA MT 59806 5328

STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE CO ONE TOWER SQUARE HARTFORD CT 06183 1190

STAR INSURANCE CO 26600 TELEGRAPH RD SOUTHFIELD MI 48034

STARNET INSURANCE COMPANY 100 CAMPUS DR FLORHAM PARK NJ 07932 0853

STATE FARM FIRE & CASUALTY CO
112 WASHINGTON ST
BLOOMINGTON IL 61710

STATE FARM GENERAL INS CO 112 E WASHINGTON ST BLOOMINGTON IL 61710

STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INS CO 112 E WASHINGTON ST BLOOMINGTON IL 61710

STILLWATER MINING CO HC 54 BOX 365 NYE MT 59061

STOLTZE CONNER LUMBER CO 2497 7TH AVE E STE 105 ST PAUL MN 55109 2802

STONE CONTAINER CORP PO BOX 66820 ST LOUIS MO 63166

STONEBRIDGE CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY 2700 W PLANO PARKWAY PLANO TX 75075 0000

STONINGTON INSURANCE COMPANY 8001 LBJ FREEWAY STE 200 DALLAS TX 75251 1301

SUMITOMO MARINE & FIRE INS CO OF AMERICA 15 INDEPENDENCE BLVD PO BOX 4602 WARREN NJ 07059 4602

SUPERIOR NATIONAL INS CO 26541 AGOURA RD PO BOX 9850 CALABASA CA 91372 9850

SWISS REINSURANCE AMERICA CORP 175 KING ST ARMONK NY 10504 0000

TARGET CORP
RSK MGMT DEPT TPN 1300
1000 NICOLLET MALL
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55403 0000

TECHNOLOGY INSURANCE COMPANY INCORPORATED 59 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK NY 10038 0000

TECK COMINCO AMERICAN INC PO BOX 638 GARRISON MT 59731

TIG INSURANCE CO PO BOX 152870 IRVING TX 75015 2870

TIG PREMIER INSURANCE CO PO BOX 152870 IRVING TX 75015

TOKIO MARINE & FIRE INSURANCE CO 230 PARK AVE NEW YORK NY 10169 0005

TOWN PUMP INC 600 S MAIN BUTTE MT 59701

TRADERS & GENERAL INS CO ONE BEACON ST B007-11 BOSTON MA 02108 3100

TRANSCONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO CNA PLAZA 32S CHICAGO IL 60685

TRANSPORT INSURANCE CO 4100 HARRY HINES BLVD DALLAS TX 75219 TRANSPORTATION INS CO 4100 HARRY HINES BLVD DALLAS TX 75219

TRAVELERS CAS & SURETY CO ONE TOWER SQUARE 8PB HARTFORD CT 06183 1190

TRAVELERS CAS & SURETY CO OF AMER ONE TOWER SQUARE 8PB HARTFORD CT 06183 1190

TRAVELERS CAS & SURETY CO OF ILL 215 SHUMAN BLVD NAPERVILLE IL 60563

TRAVELERS CASUALTY CO OF CONN ONE TOWER SQUARE 8PB HARTFORD CT 06183 1190

TRAVELERS COMMERCIAL CASUALTY COMPANY ONE TOWER SQUARE HARTFORD CT 06183 0000

TRAVELERS COMMERCIAL INS CO ONE TOWER SQ HARTFORD CT 06183 2030

TRAVELERS IND CO OF AMERICA 1 TOWER SQUARE 4 CR HARTFORD CT 06183 9070

TRAVELERS IND CO OF ILL 215 SHUMAN BLVD NAPERVILLE IL 60563

TRAVELERS INDEMNITY CO 1 TOWER SQUARE 4CR HARTFORD CT 06183

TRAVELERS INDEMNITY CO OF CT 1 TOWER SQUARE 4 CR HARTFORD CT 06183 9070

TRAVELERS INSURANCE CO TRAVELERS COMPANIES ONE TOWER SQUARE 4 CR HARTFORD CT 06183 9070

TRINITY UNIVERSAL INS CO OF KANSAS PO BOX 655028 DALLAS TX 75265

TRINITY UNIVERSAL INSURANCE CO PO BOX 655028 DALLAS TX 75265 0000

TRUCK INSURANCE EXCHANGE 4700 WILSHIRE BLVD PO BOX 2478 LOS ANGELES CA 90051 2478

TWIN CITY FIRE INSURANCE CO PO BOX 4626 HOUSTON TX 77210 4626

UNDERWRITERS INDEMNITY COMPANY 9025 N LINDBERG DR PEORIA IL 61615 0000

UNDERWRITERS INSURANCE COMPANY 4610 UNIVERSITY AVE PO BOX 5900 MADISON WI 53705 0900

UNIGARD INSURANCE CO 15805 NE 24TH ST BELLEVUE WA 98008 2409

UNION INS CO OF PROVIDENCE 717 MULBERRY ST PO BOX 712 DES MOINES IA 50309 0712

UNION OIL COMPANY OF CA PO BOX 2390 2929 E IMPERIAL HWY BREA CA 92822

UNITED COMMUNITY INSURANCE CO PO BOX 15093 ALBANY NY 12212

UNITED PACIFIC INSURANCE CO THREE PARKWAY 5TH FLOOR PHILADELPHIA PA 19102 1376

UNITED STATES FIDELITY & GUARANTY
CO
THE ST PAUL
385 WASHINGTON ST
ST PAUL MN 55102 1396

UNITED STATES FIRE INSURANCE CO 305 MADISON AVE MORRISTOWN NJ 07960 0000

UNITED STATES LIABILITY INS CO 190 S WARNER RD PO BOX 6700 WAYNE PA 19087 2191

UNITED WISCONSIN INS CO PO BOX 2013 MILWAUKEE WI 53201 2013

UNIVERSAL UNDERWRITERS INS CO 7045 COLLEGE BLVD OVERLAND PARK KS 66211 1523

UNIVERSITY OF GREAT FALLS 1301 20TH ST S GREAT FALLS MT 59405

UTICA MUTUAL INSURANCE CO PO BOX 530 UTICA NY 13505

VALIANT INSURANCE COMPANY PO BOX 1228 BALTIMORE MD 21203

VALLEY FORGE INSURANCE CO CNA PLAZA 31S CHICAGO IL 60685

VALOR INSURANCE COMPANY INC 2727 CENTRAL AVE BILLINGS MT 59102

VANLINER INSURANCE CO 1 PREMIER DR PO BOX 26352 FENTEN MO 63026 1552

VIGILANT INSURANCE CO 15 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD PO BOX 1615 WARREN NJ 07061 1615

WAGGONERS TRUCKING THE 1131 HWY S GREER SC 29651 0000

WARNER INSURANCE COMPANY 233 S WACKER DR STE #2000 CHICAGO IL 60606 6308

WASATCH CREST MUTUAL INS CO 1600 WEST 2200 SOUTH PO BOX 27008 SALT LAKE CITY UT 84127 0008

WASHINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY 14100 SE 36TH ST STE 100 BELLEVUE WA 98006 0000

WATKINS & SHEPARD TRUCKING INC PO BOX 5328 MISSOULA MT 59806

WAUSAU BUSINESS INSURANCE CO PO BOX 4025 BEAVERTON OR 97076 4025

WAUSAU UNDERWRITERS INS CO PO BOX 4025 BEAVERTON OR 97076 4025

WESCO INSURANCE COMPANY 200 SOMERSET CORP BLVD STE 100 BRIDGEWATER NJ 08807

WEST AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY 9450 SEWARD RD FAIRFIELD OH 45011 5456

WESTCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO

500 COLONIAL CTR PKWY STE #200 ROSWELL GA 30076 8852

WESTERN AGRICULTURAL INS CO 5400 UNIVERSITY AVE WEST DES MOINES IA 50266 5997

WESTERN CONTINENTAL INS CO 20 EXCHANGE PLC 11TH FL NEW YORK NY 10005 0000

WESTERN DIVERSIFIED CASUALTY INS 510 LAKE COOK ROAD PO BOX 770 DEERFIELD IL 60015

WESTERN ENERGY CO HUMAN RESOURCES SAFETY PO BOX 99 COLSTRIP MT 59323 0000

WESTERN FRUIT EXPRESS CO 1700 E GOLF RD 3RD FL SCHAUMBURG IL 60173 5860

WESTPORT INSURANCE CORP PO BOX 2991 SHAWNEE MISSION KS 66201 0000

WILLIAMSBURG NATIONAL INS CO 26600 TELEGRAPH RD SOUTHFIELD MI 48034 0000

WINTERTHUR
INTERNATIONAL AMERICA
INS CO
ONE GENERAL DR
SUN PRAIRIER WI 53596

WORLDWIDE INSURANCE COMPANY 580 WALNUT ST CINCINNATI OH 45202

XL INS CO OF NEW YORK INC 111 BROADWAY RM #1802 NEW YORK NY 10006 1909 XL SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY 20 N MARTINGALE RD STE 200 SCHAUMBURG IL 60173 2231

YORK INSURANCE COMPANY 1 PROVIDENCE WASHINGTON PO BOX 518 PROVIDENCE RI 02901 0518 YOSEMITE INSURANCE COMPANY 601 NW SECOND ST PO BOX 159 EVANSVILLE IN 47701 0159

ZENITH INSURANCE COMPANY 21255 CALIFA ST WOODLAND HILLS CA 91367 ZURICH AMERICAN INSURANCE CO 1400 AMERICAN LANE SCHAUMBURG IL 60196 1056

ZURICH AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY OF ILLINOIS 1400 AMERICAN LANE SCHAUMBURG IL 60196 1056 WAVERLEY MONTNA INC PO BOX 12000 JACKSON MS 39236

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF PROV OF MT MOLLY M PHILOPANT CPA 9 EAST NINTH AVE SPOKANE WA 99202

CYPRUS MINES CORPORATION VICTORIA BELLAMY %PHELPS DODGE ONE NORTH CENTRAL PHOENIX AZ 85004

TEXAS GENERAL INDEMNITY CO 2115 WINNIE PO BOX 1269 GALVESTON TX 77553

WESTERN EMPLOYERS INS CO 1400 N HARBOR BLVD FULLERTON CA 92635

ROCKWOOD INSURANCE CO 654 MAIN ST ROCKWOOD PA 15557

FIRST SOUTHERN INSURANCE CO 201 E KENNEDY BLVD TAMPA FL 33602

NATIONAL CONTINENTAL INSURNCE CO 6300 WILSON MILLS RD E61 MAYFIELD VILLAGE OH 44143

## IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

2003 MTWCC 34

WCC No. 2001-0300

FILED

## **CASSANDRA SCHMILL**

**Petitioner** 

APR 2 5 2003

OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE HELENA, MONTANA

VS.

## LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORPORATION

Respondent/Insurer.

## ORDER AUTHORIZING WITHHOLDING

<u>Summary</u>: As a result of the legal precedent established by this Court's decision, which has been affirmed on appeal, counsel for Liberty requests Court authorization to withhold 25% of the claimed attorney fees pending further proceedings.

<u>Held</u>: Liberty Northwest Insurance Corporation and other Plan II insurers and Plan I self-insured employers are authorized to withhold 25% claimed by petitioner's counsel as attorney fees.

#### **Topics**

Attorney Fees: Common Fund. Where counsel for petitioner has established a legal precedent entitling other claimants to additional workers' compensation benefits, and has given notice of her intent to seek common fund attorney fees with respect to those benefits whether paid by the respondent insurer in this case or by other Plan I and II insurers, all potentially affected insurers are authorized by the Court to withhold the claimed attorney fees pending further proceedings with respect to the claimed attorney fees.

¶1 Counsel for petitioner in this matter has given notice of her intent to seek attorney fees with respect to benefits paid as a result of the precedent established by the decision

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in this case. By way of a letter from petitioner's counsel, she requested respondent withhold a 25% attorney fee until this matter is resolved. A copy of this letter has been provided to the Court.

- ¶2 Liberty's counsel has requested an order from this Court directing Liberty Northwest to withhold the 25% amount.
- ¶3 Finding good cause, and until further order of the Court, Liberty Northwest Insurance Corporation is authorized to withhold the 25% attorney fee amount claimed by petitioner's counsel from any and all benefits which are paid on account of the decision in this case and which would not have otherwise been paid absent that decision.
- ¶4 By this Order I authorize other insurers and self-insured employers to similarly withhold the claimed attorney fees.
- ¶5 The Court will consider a motion to intervene by insurers, self-insured employers, and/or claimants when they are received.

SO ORDERED.

DATED in Helena, Montana, this 25 day of April, 2003.

(SEAL)

JUDGE

c: Ms. Laurie Wallace Mr. Larry W. Jones Bradley J. Luck, Esq.
Thomas J. Harrington, Esq.
GARLINGTON, LOHN & ROBINSON, PLLP
199 W. Pine, P.O. Box 7909
Missoula, MT 59807-7909
Telephone: (406) 523-2500

Telephone: (406) 523-2500 Facsimile: (406) 523-2595

David Hawkins, Esq. Montana State Fund P. O. Box 4759 Helena, MT 59604-4759 Telephone: (406) 444-6500 Facsimile: (406) 444-6555

Attorneys for Intervenors

THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT IN THE STATE OF MONTANA

CASSANDRA M. SCHMILL,

Petitioner,

V

LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORPORATION,

Respondent/Insurer.

WCC No. 2001-0300

STATE FUND'S MOTION TO INTERVENE AND BRIEF IN SUPPORT

COMES NOW the Montana State Fund ("State Fund"), through counsel, and hereby moves to intervene in the above-referenced matter. For the reasons stated herein, the State Fund requests this Court to grants its motion.

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### INTRODUCTION

As the Court is aware, the Montana Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional the apportionment statute codified at Montana Code Annotated § 39-72-706 (1999). See Schmill v. Liberty N.W. Ins. Corp., 2003 MT 80, ¶ 23, \_\_\_Mont. \_\_\_, ¶ 23, \_\_\_P.3d \_\_\_, ¶ 23 (Apr. 10, 2003). As a result of the decision, insurers can no longer reduce compensation benefits under the Occupational Disease Act in accordance with the percentage of the injury that is attributable to non-occupational factors. Liberty Northwest Insurance Corporation ("Liberty") was the Plan II insurer in Schmill. The State Fund, as the Plan III insurer, seeks to intervene in this matter to protect its interests and the interests of its policyholders in the outcome of the Schmill litigation, to help avoid potentially duplicative litigation, and to seek direction from the Court regarding its obligation with respect to implementation.

### **ARGUMENT**

I. INTERVENTION IS PROPER UNDER THE PROCEDURAL RULES OF THIS COURT AND UNDER THE MONTANA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.

Rule 24.5.309 of the Procedural Rules of the Workers' Compensation Court governs intervention:

- (1) Intervention in a pending proceeding shall be governed by the considerations set forth in Rule 24(a) and (b) of the Mont. R. Civ. P.
- (2) Unless otherwise permitted by order of the court, a motion to intervene must be served within 30 days of the service of the petition by the court. The motion shall state the grounds upon which intervention is sought. A copy of the motion, supporting brief and any affidavits shall be served upon all parties. Any party to the dispute shall have 10 days following service to serve an answering brief. The court, in its discretion, will determine whether or not to allow intervention.

Although more than thirty days have elapsed since Schmill filed her Petition, the express language of Rule 24.5.309 gives this Court the discretion to allow a party to intervene at any step of the proceeding. See Uninsured Employers' Fund v. American Intl. Group, 2000 MTWCC 49, ¶ 4. Intervention is proper under Rule 24.5.309 because of the impact Schmill may have on the State Fund's financial viability. The State Fund's financial

viability is of significant consequence to insurers in Montana because the State Fund insures more than half of all Montana employers. Oftentimes, the State Fund serves as the "insurer of last resort" because it will write a policy for any Montana employer who applies for coverage. Intervention would enable the State Fund to protect itself and its policyholders from potential exposure for claims under the Unfair Trade Practices Act by allowing it to seek direction from the Court with respect to its obligations regarding the implementation of *Schmill*.

Intervention is also proper because it helps avoid potentially duplicative litigation by allowing the Court to consider the common questions of law that would present themselves in separate proceedings if Schmill or another claimant pursued the State Fund. Lastly, the Montana Supreme Court, recognizing the State Fund's strong interest in the outcome of the *Schmill* litigation, let the State Fund participate in the previous appellate argument as an amicus curiae. The State Fund continues to have a strong interest in the outcome of the *Schmill* litigation. Therefore, the State Fund requests this Court to allow it to intervene under Rule 24.5.309.

# A. The State Fund Should Be Allowed to Intervene as a Matter of Right Under Montana Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 24(a)(2).

If this Court declines to allow the State Fund to intervene under Rule 24.5.309, then it is necessary to evaluate intervention under the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure because Rule 24.5.309 expressly incorporates Rule 24(a). Montana Rules of Civil Procedure 24(a) provides:

Rule 24(a). Intervention of Right. Upon timely application anyone shall be permitted to intervene in an action: (1) when a statute confers an unconditional right to intervene; or (2) when the applicant claims an interest relating to the property or transaction which is the subject of the action and the applicant is so situated that the disposition of the action may as a practical matter impair or impede the applicant's ability to protect that interest, unless the applicant's interest is adequately represented by existing parties.

To intervene as a matter of right under Rule 24(a), the State Fund must make a prima facie showing of a direct, substantial, legally-protectable interest in the proceedings that is not adequately represented by Liberty. *See DeVoe v. State* (1997), 281 Mont. 356, 362, 935 P.2d 256, 260 (citing *Aniballi v. Aniballi* (1992), 255 Mont. 384, 386-387, 842 P.2d 342, 343-344). The State Fund has a legally-protectable monetary interest at stake because, as

the Plan III insurer of last resort with a large number of Montana policyholders, it has many claims that may be affected by the Schmill decision. The number of claims potentially affected by Schmill impacts the determination of whether Schmill applies retroactivity analysis. See Benson v. Heritage Inn, Inc., 1998 MT 330, ¶24, 292 Mont. 268, ¶24, 971 P.2d 1227, ¶24 (repeating the factors originally set forth in the seminal retroactivity case, Chevron Oil v. Huson, 404 U.S. 97, 92 S. Ct. 349, 30 L. Ed. 2d 296 (1971), overruled, Harper v. Virginia Dept. of Taxn., 509 U.S. 86, 113 S. Ct. 2510, 125 L. Ed. 2d 74 (1993)). For example, with the State Fund present in this matter, the Court could fully analyze the retroactivity issue because it could consider the State Fund's evidence regarding the administrative and financial burdens a retroactive application would have on it. Without the State Fund's presence, the Court would not be able to consider the number of claims the State Fund would have to identify, locate and adjust if Schmill applied retroactively. Therefore, to ensure the interests of the State Fund and its policyholders are adequately represented, it should be allowed to intervene.

Additionally, intervention is proper because it would serve the same purpose as joinder<sup>1</sup> and would help prevent the need for separate, potentially duplicative litigation, much like the Court is experiencing with the remand of *Rausch v. State Compen. Ins. Fund*, 2002 MT 203, 311 Mont. 210, 54 P.3d 25. Lastly, by allowing the State Fund to intervene, the State Fund can seek direction from the Court regarding its duties with respect to the implementation of *Schmill*, which would allow it to protect itself from potential exposure for claims arising under the Unfair Trade Practices Act. Accordingly, the State Fund should be allowed to intervene as a matter of right.

Intervention of right is here seen to be a kind of counterpart to Rule 19(a)(2)(i) on joinder of persons needed for a just adjudication: where, upon motion of a party in an action, an absentee should be joined so that he may protect his interest which as a practical matter may be substantially impaired by the disposition of the action, he ought to have a right to intervene in the action on his own motion.

Mont. R. Civ. P. 24(a) at Advisory Committee's Note to the September 29, 1967, Amendment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>It has long been the rule that:

# B. The State Fund Should Be Allowed to Permissibly Intervene under Montana Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 24(b).

If the Court declines to allow the State Fund to intervene as a matter of right under Rule 24(a)(2), then the State Fund is entitled to permissibly intervene under Rule 24(b). Rule 24(b) allows intervention when the main action and the claims of the applicant have questions of law or fact in common with one another. Montana Rules of Civil Procedure 24(b) provides:

Rule 24(b). Permissive Intervention. Upon timely application anyone may be permitted to intervene in an action: (1) when a statute confers a conditional right to intervene; or (2) when an applicant's claim or defense and the main action have a question of law or fact in common. When a party to an action relies for ground of claim or defense upon any statute or executive order administered by a state governmental officer or agency or upon any regulation, order, requirement, or agreement issued or made pursuant to the statute or executive order, the officer or agency upon timely application may be permitted to intervene in the action. In exercising its discretion the court shall consider whether the intervention will unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the rights of the original parties.

The plain language of Rule 24(b) grants the Court discretion in permitting or disallowing a party to intervene, and intervention under Rule 24(b) has always been liberally allowed. See e.g. State ex rel. Thelen v. Dist. Ct. (1932), 93 Mont. 149, 17 P.2d 57. Here, common questions of law exist. For example, Schmill's entitlement to common fund fees and whether the decision applies retroactively are two legal questions that the main action would have in common with an action against the State Fund. Therefore, the State Fund should be allowed to intervene to set forth its defenses to Schmill's claims because the determination of those claims will have an impact on the State Fund in future proceedings. Accordingly, permissive intervention is proper under Rule 24(b).

## 1. The State Fund's Motion to Intervene is Timely.

Whether filed under Rule 24(a)(2) or Rule 24(b), a motion to intervene must be "timely." As the Montana Supreme Court has noted, "timeliness" is a matter that is within the trial court's discretion and is determined from the particular circumstances surrounding the action See Estate of Schwenke v. Becktold (1992), 252 Mont. 127, 133, 827 P.2d 808, 811 (citing NAACP v. New York, 413 U.S. 345, 366, 93 S. Ct. 2591, 2603, 37 L. Ed. 2d 648,

663 (1973)). In providing further guidance, the Montana Supreme Court has set forth four factors to consider, none of which are individually dispositive:

(1) the length of time the intervenor knew or should have known of its interest in the case before moving to intervene; (2) the prejudice to the original parties, if intervention is granted, resulting from the intervenor's delay . . .; (3) the prejudice to the intervenor if the motion is denied; and (4) any unusual circumstances mitigating for or against a determination that the application is timely.

In re Adoption of C.C.L.B., 2001 MT 66, ¶ 24, 305 Mont. 22, ¶ 24, 22 P.3d 646, ¶ 24.

Here, the Montana Supreme Court decided *Schmill* on April 10, 2003. By letter dated April 22, 2003, Laurie Wallace, the attorney for Schmill, informed Liberty that she was requesting a common fund fee based on the decision in *Schmill*. *See* Aff. Bradley J. Luck ¶¶ 1-3 (May 5, 2003). On April 24, 2003, Liberty sent Ms. Wallace's claim for common fund fees to the Court and requested authorization to withhold 25% of all monies it paid to claimants under *Schmill*. *See* Aff. Luck ¶ 3. Liberty sent a copy of this correspondence to the State Fund. *See* Aff. Luck Ex. 1. Roughly one week later, the State Fund is filing its motion to intervene. Such a slight amount of time between notice and this motion for intervention clearly renders this motion timely. Further, both Schmill and Liberty will benefit from the State Fund's presence in this litigation because the State Fund will add its observations and perspectives to the significant legal issues the parties will present to the Court. Lastly, the intervention will not cause a trial date to be vacated and a new Scheduling Order to be issued. Therefore, the intervention is timely.

#### **CONCLUSION**

This Court has the discretion to allow intervention under Rule 24.5.309. The State Fund's legally-protectable interests in the outcome of *Schmill* make intervention proper under the rules of this Court and under the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. Further, in an effort to avoid potentially duplicative litigation, and to allow the State Fund to seek direction from the Court regarding its duties with respect to implementation, the State Fund requests this Court to allow it to intervene.

//

## RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this \_\_\_\_\_day of May, 2003.

David Hawkins, Esq. Montana State Fund P. O. Box 4759 Helena, MT 59604-4759 Telephone: (406) 444-6500 Telefax: (406) 444-6555

GARLINGTON, LOHN & ROBINSON, PLLP 199 West Pine • P.O. Box 7909

Missoula, MT 59807-7909 Telephone: (496) 523-2500

Attorneys for Intervenors

Bradley J. Luck

## **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, the undersigned, a representative of the law firm of GARLINGTON, LOHN & ROBINSON, PLLP, hereby certify that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2003, I mailed a true and correct copy of the foregoing STATE FUND'S MOTION TO INTERVENE AND BRIEF IN SUPPORT AND AFFIDAVIT OF BRADLEY J. LUCK, postage prepaid, to the following:

Laurie Wallace, Esq.
BOTHE & LAURIDSEN
P.O. Box 2020
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Larry Jones, Esq. Liberty Northwest Insurance Corp. 700 S.W. Higgins Ave., Suite 250 Missoula, MT 59803

Fridake

Kristi Bidlake

Rex Palmer ATTORNEYS INC., P.C. 301 W Spruce Missoula, Montana 59802 (406) 728-4514 ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT IN THE STATE OF MONTANA BEFORE THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE

Robert Flynn,	) WCC No. 2000-0222 ) WCC No. 2003-0771
and	)
Carl Miller, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, Petitioners,	) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING )
V	)
Montana State Fund Respondent/Insurer.	)

## **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that I served the attached copy of Notice Of Claim Of Attorney Lien upon the Insurers and Self-insurers whose names appear on the attached list by depositing a true copy thereof in the United States mails postpaid, addressed to each entity as on the attached list.

DATED in Missoula, Montana, this 23rd day of February 2004.

Margaret Martin

Legal Assistant

## IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

WCC No. 2000-0222 WCC NO. 2003-0771

FILED

FEB 1 2 2004

ROBERT FLYNN and CARL MILLER.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE HELENA, MONTANA

individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,
Petitioners,

V.

MONTANA STATE FUND, Respondent/Insurer.

NOTICE OF CLAIM OF ATTORNEY LIEN

To all insurers and self insurers writing or maintaining workers' compensation coverage in the State of Montana on or after July 1, 1974.

Please take notice that pursuant to the *common fund doctrine*; the decision of the Montana Supreme Court in *Flynn v Montana State Fund*, 2002 MT 279, 312 Mont. 410, 60 P.3d 397; and the *DECISION AND ORDER REGARDING RETROACTIVITY AND ATTORNEY FEES* of this Court dated August 5, 2003, in the above-entitled matter, the attorneys in the above-entitled matter claim a lien with regard to Montana workers' compensation claimants who incurred costs or fees to obtain a Social Security award for which the entity providing workers' compensation coverage took an offset or had a policy of taking an offset without accounting for the costs incurred by the claimant to recover the award.

The lien is for a percentage of the funds which the insurer is now required to remove from its offset calculation, as required by the two Court decisions

NOTICE OF CLAIM OF ATTORNEY LIEN

Page 1 of 2

identified in the preceding paragraph. A copy of the attorney's Amended Notice of Attorneys Lien, as filed with the Court, is attached hereto.

The mailing certificate for this NOTICE OF CLAIM OF ATTORNEY LIEN is on file with the Workers' Compensation Court, PO Box 537, Helena, MT 59624-0537.

Dated in Helena, Montana, this 1215 day of Telegram, 200

Judge

Rex Palmer ATTORNEYS INC., P.C. 301 W Spruce Missoula, Montana 59802 (406) 728-4514 ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

FILED

JAN - 2 2004

OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE HELENA MONTANA

IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT IN THE STATE OF MONTANA BEFORE THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE

Robert Flynn,

and

Carl Miller, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, Petitioners, v.

Montana State Fund Respondent/Insurer.

COMES NOW the undersigned, and herewith gives notice to all insures and self insurers writing or maintaining workers' compensation coverage in the State of Montana on or after July 1, 1974, of the undersigned's attorney's lien upon the common fund created and to be created which has or will directly benefit all ascertainable absent workers' compensation claimants. Those absent claimants should be required to contribute, in proportion to the benefits they receive or will

receive, to the cost of the litigation, including reasonable attorney fees allowable by law at the time of the claimants' respective industrial injury or occupational disease.

The undersigned commenced and maintained an action in the Montana Workers' Compensation Court for Robert Flynn entitled, *Flynn v. Montana State Fund*, WCC NO,. 2000-0222. The legal issues in the matter were ultimately decided by the Montana Supreme Court in *Flynn v. Montana State Fund*, 2002 MT 279, 312 Mont. 410, 60 P.3d 397 (*"Flynn"*). The *Flynn* Court stated that "...equity demands that all parties receiving a benefit from the common fund share in the costs of its creation." The Court ruled that pursuant to the *common fund doctrine*, where the workers' compensation claimant incurred costs to establish entitlement to social security benefits, the workers' compensation insurer "...should contribute, in proportion to the benefits actually received, to the costs of the litigation, including reasonable attorney fees."

On remand from the Montana Supreme Court, additional issues were raised in the Workers' Compensation Court concerning the legal consequences of the *Flynn* decision. As well, the undersigned commenced and maintained another action in the Workers' Compensation Court for Carl Miller and others similarly situated entitled, *Miller*, et al. v. Montana State Fund, WCC No. 2003-0771 ("Miller"). The Workers' Compensation Court concluded that the appropriate way to handle the *Miller* action was within the same proceedings as the post remand *Flynn* issues and sua sponte consolidated the two actions on May 30, 2003. On August 5, 2003, the

Workers' Compensation Court Issued a ruling on many of the outstanding issues in the consolidated action ("Flynn/Miller").

The Workers' Compensation Court ruled in *Flynn/Miller* that (1) as a result of the *Flynn* decision, others workers' compensation claimants situated similarly with Robert Flynn became entitled to have the insurer pay a pro-rated share of the cost, including attorney fees for representation, the claimants incurred in connection with their successful effort to obtain Social Security benefits and (2) common fund fees were payable, based on the benefit received.

#### **SCOPE OF LIEN**

- The lien is asserted against all insurers and self insurers writing or maintaining workers' compensation coverage in the State of Montana on or after July 1, 1974.
- 2. The lien extends to all Montana workers' compensation claimants who incurred costs or fees to obtain a Social Security award for which the entity providing workers' compensation coverage took an offset or had a policy of taking an offset without accounting for the costs incurred by the claimant to recover the award, as required by the Flynn decision.
- 3. The amount of the claimed lien is that amount granted by the attorney fee statute and the Department of Labor, more particularly;
  - A) For each claimant with an injury or occupational disease entitlement dated on or after November 11, 1988, 25% of the benefit to which each claimant is entitled as a result of the *Flynn/Miller* decision; and
  - B) For each claimant with an injury or occupational disease entitlement date prior to November 11, 1988, 33% of the benefit to which each claimant is entitled as a result of the *Flynn/Miller* decision if paid before decision on appeal and 40% if paid after decision on appeal of the pending *Flynn/Miller* action.

The undersigned claims no lien on any of the following:

- 1. Any Social Security offset initiated prior to July 1, 1974; and
- 2. Any Social Security award ordered to be paid after the date of the Flynn/Miller decision of August 5, 2003.

Dated this  $\frac{29}{10}$  day of December 2003.

Rex Palmer

ATTORNEYS INC., P.C.

301 W Spruce

Missoula, MT 59802

(406) 728-4514

**ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER** 

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 29th day of December 2003, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the following by U.S. mail, hand-delivery, Federal Express, or facsimile:

Bradley J. Luck Garlington, Lohn & Robinson 199 W Pine PO Box 7909 Missoula, MT 59807-7909

Larry Jones Liberty Northwest 700 SW Higgins Avenue, Ste 108 Missoula, MT 59803-1489 U.S. Mail

Hand Delivered on the 30th of

Federal Express December, 2003

Facsimile.

{X} U.S. Mail

Hand Delivered

Federal Express

Facsimile

AMENDED NOTICE OF ATTORNEY'S LIEN

Page 4 of 4

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BUS_NAME	ADDR1	ADDR2	CITY	S	ZIP1 ZIP2	
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6 ACCEPTANCE INDEMNITY INS CO	300 W BROADWAY STE #100	PO BOX 4017	COUNCIL BLUFFS	₹	51503 9094	
A ACCIDENT FUND INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA	232 S CAPITOL AVE	PO BOX 40790	LANSING	Ī	48901 7990	
A ACE AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY	PO BOX 41484	430 - 4	PHILADELPHIA	PA	19101	
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A'D ACE FIRE UNDERWRITERS INS CO	1601 CHESTNUT ST 7L 30 D	PO BOX 41484	PHILADELPHIA	Ą	19101 1484	
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21 ALBERTSONS INC	PO BOX 283		SAINT LOUIS	Ø	63166	
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250 MIDDLEFIELD RD STE #120			MENLO PARK	Š	94025	
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10101 REUNION PL STE 500			SAN ANTONIO			
350 EISENHOWEK KD			LEAVENWORTH	+ KS	66048 0000	
PO BOX 1996			PHOENIX	ΑZ	85077	
11011 COOL VET			<b>EAST HELENA</b>	MT	59635	
777 CANIMADINI DI	****		OVERLAND PARK		66210	
DO BOX 46440			NOVATO	Š	94998	
PO BOX 1228			BOISE	0	83715 0000	
385 WASHINGTON ST			BALTIMORE	MD	21203	
7230 MOGINAIS EEDDY DE 500			ST PAUL	Σ	55102	
PO BOY 105004			SUWANEE	GA	30024 1245	
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A 150 S SHEKWOOD FOREST			<b>BATON ROUGE</b>	4	70816 0000	
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12001 N CENTRAL EXEX	PO BOX 961073	£	FORT WORTH	×	76161 1073	
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6400 BROTHERHOOD WAY	PO BOX 2227	FORT WAYNE	Z	46801 2227
% ALLIED WASTE	15880 N GRNWY STE 100	SCOTTSDALE	ΑZ	85260
176 EAST 5TH ST		ST PAUL	Z	55164
5320 S 900 E STE 100		SALT LAKE CITY	5	84117 7286
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2720 IENAYA WAY #2716-6	PO BOX 14910	LAS VEGAS	Ž	
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		SAINT PAUL	Z	55164
15 MOUNTAIN VIEW RD		WARREN	3	07059
445 FIFTH AVE		WARREN	3	. 65070
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101 N MAIN ST	FO BOX 5074	SOUTHFIELD	Ī	48086 0000
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/151 COLONIAL AMERICAN CASUALTY & SURETY / 452 COLONIAL PENN FRANKLIN INS CO	1400 AMERICAN LN 200 N MARTINGALE RD	*	SCHAUMBURG ISCHAUMBURG	;	60196 1056 60173 0000 50012	
753 COLUMBIA FALLS FOREST PRODUCTS INC. 754 COLUMBUS HOSPITAL CORP. 755 COMPINED PENIFFITS INC.	P.O.BOX D PO BOX 5013	500 15TH AVE S			59403 5013 59601	
155 COMMERCE & INDISTRY INSURANCE CO	35 INCILL AVE	(a)	ZX.	ž	10038	
A57 COMMERCIAL CASUALTY INS CO	16-6	PO BOX 14910	LAS VEGAS	2	89114 4910	
158 COMMERCIAL COMPENSATION CASUALTY INS CO			4S	_	91372 0850	
459 COMMERCIAL INS CO OF NEWARK NJ	CNA PLAZA		CHICAGO		60685	
A60 COMMERCIAL LOAN INS CORP	2 PLAZA E STE 1280	330 E KILBOURN AVE	MILWAUKEE			
461 COMPASS INSURANCE COMPANY	709 CURTIS STREET		MIDDLETOWN		45044 3999	
J62 CONAGRA FOODS INC	1 CONAGRA DR		OMAHA			
A63 CONNECTICUT INDEMNITY CO	PO BOX 1000		CHAROLOTTE		28201 1000	
164 CONNIE LEE INSURANCE CO	1 STATE ST PLAZA 15TH FL		NEW YORK		10004	
165 CONOCO INC	PO BOX 30198				59107	
/166 CONOCO PIPELINE CO	1490H PLAZA OFFICE BLDG		BARTLESVILLE	š	74004	
767 CONSOLIDATED FREIGHTWAYS CORP	<b>%SEDGWICK CLAIMS MGMT</b>	7 W 6TH AVE STE 301	HELENA		59601	
A68 CONSOLIDATED MUTUAL INS CO	345 ADAMS STREET				11201	
/169 CONSTITUTION INSURANCE COMPANY	717 FIFTH AVE	đ			10022 8101	
170 CONTINENTAL BAKING CO	<b>%INTERSTATE BRANDS</b>	12 E ARMOUR BLVD	<u></u>	_	64111	
171 CONTINENTAL CASUALTY CO	PO BOX 1160		COLUMBUS	· HO	43216	
A72 CONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO	CNA PLAZA		CHICAGO	_	60685	
173 CONTINENTAL NATIONAL INDEMNITY	CNA PLAZA		CHICAGO		60685 0000	
474 CONTINENTAL WESTERN INS CO	PO BOX 1594		S			
175 CONVERIUM INSURANCE (NORTH AMERICA) INC	1 CHASE MANHATTAN PLZ				10005 0000	
176 CONVERIUM REINSURANCE (NORTH AMERICA) INC	1 CHASE MANHATTAN PLAZA	277				
177 CORE INSURANCE COMPANY	131 CHURCH ST STE 201		NO.	<u> </u>	05401 0000	
178 COREGIS INSURANCE COMPANY	525 W VAN BUREN STE #500		CHICAGO		20909	
A 79 COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP	PO BOX 182523		COLUMBUS	, H		
A80 COUNTRY CASUALTY INS CO	1701 N TOWANDA AVE	PO BOX 2100	BLOOMINGTON			
A81 COUNTRY MUTUAL INS CO	1701 TOWANDA AVE	PO BOX 2100	BLOOMINGTON	_	61701 2100	
182 COUNTRY PREFERRED INS CO	1701 N TOWANDA AVE	PO BOX 2100	BLOOMINGTON			
7483 CREDIT GENERAL INSURANCE CO	1366 DUBLIN RD #D5	8 m	COLUMBUS	_		
7-184 CRUM & FORSTER INDEMNITY COMPANY	305 MADISON AVE	PO BOX 1973	OWN			
185 CUMIS INSURANCE SOCIETY INC	PO BOX 1221				53701 0000	
/186 CYPRUS MINES CORPORATION /187 DAIMLER CHRYSLER INSURANCE COMPANY	%PHELPS DODGE 27777 INSTER RD	ONE NORTH CENTRAL	PHOENIX AZ FARMINGTON HILL MI		85004 48334 5326	

188 DAIRYLAND INSURANCE COMPANY 189 DAKOTA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY	1800 N POINT DR PO BOX 712
490 DAKOTA TRUCK UNDERWRITERS	3900 W 53RD ST
192 DEPOSITORS INSURANCE COMPANY	1100 LOCUST ST
	<b>%ZURICH US</b>
	385 WASHINGTON
408 EASTOLIADD INSULATION OF NEW YORK	6 COMMERCE
AND FOUNDAY FIDE & CARLALTY CO	16 S RIVER ST
	700 GUAKEK LN
	700 QUAKER LN
	152 CONANT ST
	717 MULBERRY ST
	PO BOX 1000
AUS EMPLOYERS CASUALTY COMPANY IN RECEIVERSHIP	<b>EMPLOYERS INS BL</b>
AND EMPLOTERS FIRE INSURANCE CO	1 BEACON ST
	SOUN BRAND BLVD
	PO BOX 4025
	PO BOX 2991
	POB 1188
	40 W BROADWAY
213 ENTERPRISE INSURANCE COMPANY	2600 WILSHIRE BOU
214 ERNST HOME CENTERS	1511 6TH AVE
A STAND DESCRIPTION OF THE STAND COMPANY	100 E PRATT ST 5TH
217 EVANSTANDIUGIS CO	P O BOX DRAWER
218 EVEREST NATIONAL INS COMPANY	SHAND MORAHAN &
219 EVERGREEN NATIONAL INDEMNITY	TO DO VACOA
720 EXCALIBUR INSURANCE COMPANY	4700 S119VEVOP BO
	15 MOUNTAIN VIEW
222 EXPLORER INSURANCE COMPANY	PO BOX 85563
223 F H STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO	2497 7TH AVE E STE
A24 FACTORY MUTUAL INS CO	ALLENDALE PARK
7.425 FAIRFIELD INSURANCE COMPANY 775 FAIRMONT INSURANCE CO	695 E MAIN ST
	SZUS N OCCUNNER SI

STEVENS POINT WI 54481 DES MOINES IA 50303 0712	SD 57109	CA 90805	≰	SCHAUMBURG IL 60196	W	2	WILKES BARRE PA 18703 0020	₹	CK RI 02887 0000	CK RI 02887	.Y MA 01915	⊻	SC	¥	MA	CA 91203	TON	9000e	DVEKLAND PARK KS 66201 1391 HOLISTON TX 77001	TW	SELES CA 90057	E WA 98101 1705	DRE MD 21202 1008	FL 33141.	LD IL 60015 2544	RNER NJ 07938	HO	¥	NJ 07059	8	AUL MN 55109	<u>R</u>	CT 06904	TV 75005 2970
STEVENS PO	SIOUX CITY	LONG BEACH	DES MOINES	SCHAU	ST PAUL	CRANFORD	WILKES	WARWICK	WARWICK	WARWICK	BEVERLY	DES MOINES	CHARLOTTE	DALLAS	BOSTON	GLENDALE	BEAVERTON	AKVAUA	HOLISTON	BUTTE	LOS ANGELES	SEATTLE	BALTIMORE	MIAMI	DEERFIELD	LIBERTY	COLUMBUS	CARROLLTON	WARREN	SAN DIEGO	SAINT PAUL	NOTSNHOL	STAMFORD	SINIVOI
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7 227 FARMERS INSURANCE EXCHANGE	4680 WILSHIRE BLVD	PO BOX 2478	LOS ANGELES	ర	90051 2478	80
Z29 FARMLAND MUTUAL INSURANCE CO	ONE TOWER SQUARE		HARTFORD	C		2
230 FEDERAL EXPRESS CORP	1100 LOCUSI ST DEPT 3000		DES MOINES	₹	50391	
231 FEDERAL INSURANCE CO	46 MOLINITAIN WELL S		MEMPHIS	Ķ	38132	
232 FEDERATED MUTUAL INSURANCE CO	13 MOON AIN VIEW KD		WARREN	Z	07059	
7233 FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC INS FXCHANGE	12 ( E PARN SQ 41075 W OF SY		OWATONNA	Z Z	55060	
234 FEDERATED SERVICE INSURANCE CO	424 F DADY 50	PO BOX 15147	LENEXA	χS	66214 5147	7
235 FEDEX GROUND PACKAGE SYSTEM INC	IZI E PARK SQ BO BOX 100	PO BOX 328	OWATONNA	Z	55060 0328	æ
236 FIDELITY & CASUALTY CO OF NEW YORK	CN 50%		PITTSBURGH	PA	15230	
/237 FIDELITY & DEPOSIT CO OF MARYI AND	4400 AATTOO AATTOO ATTO TO	P	CHICAGO	7	60685	
/238 FIDELITY & GUARANTY INS CO	205 WAS WINDER OF		SCHAUMBURG	ہے	60196 1056	9
/239 FIDELITY & GUARANTY INS UNDERWRITERS	SSS WASHINGTON ST		ST PAUL	Z	55102 1396	Ó
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/241 FIREMANS FUND INS CO	727 SAN MADIN SE		CHARLOTTE	S	28201 1000	0
242 FIREMANS FUND INS CO OF OHIO	777 SAN MAKIN DK		NOVATO	క	94998	
243 FIREMANS FUND INS CO OF WISCONSIN	THE SAN MARIN DRIVE		NAVATO	Š	94998 0000	_
244 FIREMENS INS CO OF NEWARK NJ	ONA INAKIN DK	PO BOX 777	NOVATO	Š	94998 0777	
245 FIRST FINANCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY	220 MITERIATIONS: 22		CHICAGO	4	60685	
A46 FIRST LIBERTY INSURANCE CORPORTION	AAAH STOD OF		BURLINGTON	S	27215	
247 FIRST NATIONAL INS CO OF AMERICA	MAILS FOR SE	175 BERKELEY ST	BOSTON	MA	02117	
7248 FIRST PROFESSIONALS INSURANCE COMPANY INCORP.	SAFECU FLAZA		SEATTLE	WA	98185	
A49 FIRST SOUTHERN INSURANCE CO	201 E KENNEDY BLYE		JACKSONVILLE	딦	32204 0000	_
7250 FLORISTS MUTUAL INSURANCE CO	#4 HODEROLL FIRMS		TAMPA	료	33602	
Z51 FLYING JINC			EDWARDSVILLE	<b>=</b>	62025	
7252 FOLKSAMERICA REINSURANCE COMPANY	ONE ( IDEDIX DI AZA 4011) FI		SAINT LOUIS	Ş	63166	
253 FORT WAYNE HEALTH & CASUALTY INS CO	1 PEINCHDANCE DE 1700 114		NEW ORK	¥	10006 1404	
7.254 FORUM INSURANCE CO	200 N MADTINGA F DO		FORT WAYNE	Z	46804 0000	
255 FRANKENMUTH MUTUAL INS CO	ONE MICHIGALE NO		SCHAUMBURG	<u></u>	60173 2096	
A256 FRED MEYER INC SHOPPING CENTERS	DO BOY 240000	-	FRANKENMUTH	Σ	48787 0001	
257 FREMONT COMPENSATION INS CO	FO BOAND DIVE		ARVADA	၀	80008	
258 FREMONT EMPLOYERS INSURANCE COMPANY	500 N BDAND BLVD		GLENDALE	δ	91203 3392	
7,259 FREMONT IND CO OF THE NORTHWEST	1601 FIFTH AVE OFF 4000		GLENDALE	క్ర	91203 3392	
	19301 NE 40TU N 945 400		SEATTLE	WA	98101	
261 FREMONT INDEMNITY CO	500 N RDAND DIVE		BELLEVUE	٨	98005 2487	
262 FREMONT PACIFIC INSURANCE CO	500 N RPAND BLVD		GLENDALE	CA	91203	
263 FRONTIER INSURANCE COMPANY	1951 AKE I OF IISE MABIE BO		GLENDALE	Š	91203	
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		PO BOX 10354	PO BOX 4626		PO BOX 1747			PO BOX 2575	P O BOX 2575				740 000 00	70 SEAVIEW AVE	11201 N TATUM BLVD STE 300	PO BOX 1000	PO BOX 1000	PO BOX 370	PO BOX 990043	: # ? = = ::
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264 GEICO CASUALTY COMPANY 265 GEICO GENERAL INSURANCE CO 266 GEICO INDEMNITY COMPANY 266 GEICO INDEMNITY COMPANY 267 GENERAL CASUALTY CO OF WISCONSIN 268 GENERAL INS CO OF AMERICA 369 GENERAL INS CO OF AMERICA 369 GENERAL INS CO OF AMERICA	AND GENERAL MELINGINGS OF THE SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY AND GENERAL SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY AND GENERAL SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY	272 GENESIS INSURANCE COMPANY 273 GEORGIA PACIFIC CORP	274 GLACIER GENERAL ASSURANCE CO 275 GLENS FALLS INSURANCE CO	277 GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINES INC	278 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INS CO 279 GRAIN DEALERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY	280 GRANITE STATE INSURANCE CO	281 GRAY INSURAINCE COMPANY INC	7283 GREAT AMERICAN ALLIANCE INS CO	284 GREAT AMERICAN ASSURANCE CO 285 GREAT AMERICAN INS CO OF NEW YORK	286 GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE CO	287 GREAT AMERICAN SPIRIT INSURANCE COMPANY 288 COEAT CLOBAL ASSUIDANCE CO	289 GREAT MINWEST INS CO	290 GREAT NORTHERN INSURANCE CO	291 GREAT WEST CASUAL TY CO	292 GREENWICH INSURANCE COMPANY 293 GREYHOUND LINES INC	294 GROCERS INSURANCE COMPANY	295 GUARANTEE INSURANCE CO 296 GUARANTY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY	7297 GUIDANT SPECIALTY MUTUAL INS CO	288 GUIDEONE MUTUAL INS CO	800 HANOVER INSURANCE CO

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100 BROOKWOOD PL STE 500	PO BOX 590009		BIRMINGHAM
200 OHAKED LAND	PO BOX 181101		CHATTANOOG
700 QUAKER I ANE	P O BOX 350		WARWICK
PO BOX 283	70 BOX 330		WARWICK
PO BOX 5119			SAINT LOUIS
300 GALLERIA OFFICENTRE	PO BOX 5074		SOUTHFIFT
2425 F CRANG PRINT CO.	MC 480 300 200		SOUTHFIELD
4420 E GRAND RIVER AVE	PO BOX 30060		LANSING
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LONG GROVE **BOCA RATON** 

MONTANA MUNICIPAL INS AUTHORITY MONTANA POWER CO MONTANA RESOURCES MONTANA SCHOOLS GROUP INS AUTHORITY MONTANA STATE FUND MONTGOMERY WARD & CO INC MONTGOMERY WARD INSURANCE COMPANY MONUMENTAL GENERAL CASUALTY CO MOTORS INSURANCE CORPORATION MOTORS INSURANCE CORPORATION MOUNTAIN WEST FARM BUREAU MUT INS CO MUS SELF-FUNDED WORK COMP PROGRAM NARISCO INC	NATIONAL AMERICAN INS CO OF CA NATIONAL AMERICAN INSURANCE CO NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE & CASUALTY INS NATIONAL COLONIAL INS, IN LIQUIDATION NATIONAL CONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO NATIONAL FARMERS UNION PROP & CAS NATIONAL FIRE INS CO OF HARTFORD NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY NATIONAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION NATIONAL INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS NATIONAL SURETY CORP	NATIONAL UNION FIRE INS OF PITTSBURGH NATIONWIDE AFFINITY INS CO OF AMER NATIONWIDE AGRIBUSINESS INS CO NATIONWIDE INS CO OF AMERICA NATIONWIDE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE CO NATIONWIDE PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO NATIONWIDE PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO NAVIGATORS INSURANCE COMPANY NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE CO NEWARK INSURANCE CO NEWARK INSURANCE CO NEWARK INSURANCE CO NIGGARA FIRE INSURANCE CO
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PO BOX 283		SAINT LOUIS	Š	63166	
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PO BOX 5074	Se	SOUTHFIELD	Ī	48086 5074	
406 S 21ST ST		LARAMIE	WY	82070	
PO BOX 203101		HELENA	Μ	59620 3101	
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PO BOX 5808		LONG BEACH	Š	90805	
1010 MANVEL AVE	PO BOX 9	CHANDLER	š	74834 0009	
PO BOX 7040		PASADENA	CA	91109	
COLONIAL CHARTER HOLDINGS, I P O BOX 706	IP O BOX 706	RIDGEFIELD	3	07657	
6300 WILSON MILLS RD E61		MAYFIELD VILLAGIOH	SIOH	44143	
17390 BROOKHURST ST		FOUNTAIN VALLEY CA	Y.CA	92708	
CNA PLAZA 32S		CHICAGO	긛	60685	
1 NATIONAL GENERAL PLAZA	PO BOX 5074	SOUTHFIELD	₹	48086 0000	
3024 HARNEY ST		OMAHA	N	68131 3580	
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233 S WACKER DR STE 2000		CHICAGO	<b>=</b>	60606 6308	
70 PINE ST	•	NEW YORK	ž	10270	
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ONE NATIONWIDE PLAZA	MAIL CODE 1-23-15	COLUMBUS	P	43215	
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/449 NL INDUSTRIES /450 NN INSURANCE COMPANY	452 NORGUARD INSURANCE COMPANY	A54 NORTH AMERICAN SPECIALTY INS CO	A55 NORTH RIVER INSURANCE CO	456 NORTH STAR REINSURANCE CORPORATION	A57 NORTHBROOK INDEMNITY CO	A58 NORTHBROOK PROPERTY & CASHALTY INS	459 NORTHERN ASSURANCE CO OF AMERICA	A60 NORTHERN INS CO OF NEW YORK	7461 NORTHLAND CASUALTY COMPANY	462 NORTHLAND INSURANCE COMPANY	A63 NORTHWEST HEALTHCARE CORP	A64 NORTHWEST PHYSICIANS MUTUAL INS CO	7465 NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION	7466 NORTHWESTERN ENERGY LLC	/ 467 NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL CASUALTY CO	1468 NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL INS CO OF MIL	469 OCCIDENTAL FIRE & CASUALTY CO OF NC	7 470 ODYSSEY AMERICA REINSURANCE CORP	A 471 ODYSSEY REINSURANCE CORP	472 OHIO CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY	473 OHIO SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY	4 474 OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE CO	A75 OLD REPUBLIC SECURITY ASSURANCE COMPANY	476 ONE BEACON AMERICA INSURANCE CO	7477 ONE BEACON INSURANCE COMPANY	1478 OKION INSURANCE COMPANY	C479 OVERSEAS PARTNERS US REINSURANCE	4480 P I E NATIONWIDE INC	481 P P G INDUSTRIES INC	A82 PACIFIC EMPLOYERS INSURANCE CO	483 PACIFIC INDEMNITY CO	484 PARTNER REINS CO OF NEW YORK	ABS PAY N SAVE CORP	Ass PEABODY COAL CO	

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7488 PENN STAR INSURANCE COMPANY 7489 PENNSYLVANIA CASUALTY COMPANY 7490 PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY	/ 492 PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURERS ASSOC 380 SENTRY PKWY	493 PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL MUTUAL CASUALTY	7495 PETROLEUM CASUJA TY CO	/496 PHARMACIST MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY	7497 PHICO INSURANCE CO	498 PHILLIPS PETROLEUM CO	/ 439 PROENIX ASSURANCE CO OF NEW YORK	A501 PLATTE BIVED INC. INC. INC. INC. INC. INC. INC. INC.	✓ 502 PLUM CREEK MGMT CO LP	/ 503 PLUM CREEK TIMBER CO INC	7 504 PLUM CREEK TIMBER CO LP	2505 PREFERRED PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY	AND PROFESSIONALS ADVOCATE INS CO	AND PROGRESSIVE CASUALTY INS CO	SOB DECITE OF CASUALTY INS CO OF HARTFORD	AND PROTECTIVE INSURANCE CO	511 PROVIDENCE INSURANCE COMPANY OF OMA	ASTO PUBLIC STELLINGTON INS CO	ASTA PUBLIC SERVICE MUTUAL INS CO	AND THE INSURANCE CORPORATION	7514 COADRAN INDEMNITY COMPANY	ATE CIMEST COSTOCIONE	7517 BAMBADT INSTITUTION	CETO DANIOTE WILLIAM CE COMPANY	A10 DECIDENCE INSURANCE CO	ESPECIFICAL OF AMERICA INS CO	EST PEDLAND INSURANCE COMPANY	ASS BELIANOT RIPES	623 RELIANCE DIRECT INS CO	7524 RELIANCE MATIONAL WINTERSON	TO STATE OF THE WIND IN CO.	

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7525 RELIANCE NATIONAL INSURANCE CO 7526 RELIANCE UNIVERSAL INS CO 7527 REPUBLIC INDEMNITY CO OF AMERICA 7528 REPUBLIC INDEMNITY CO OF CA 7529 REPUBLIC WESTERN INSURANCE CO 7530 ROCHDALE INSURANCE CO 7531 ROCKWOOD INSURANCE CO 7532 ROSAUERS SUPERMARKETS INC 7534 ROYAL INDEMNITY COMPANY 7535 ROYAL INS CO OF AMERICA 7536 RYDER SYSTEMS INC	~ W O C = Al M = 10	7,551 SECURITY NATIONAL INS CO 7,652 SELECT INSURANCE CO 7,553 SENTINEL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD 7,554 SENTRY INSURANCE MUTUAL CO 7,555 SENTRY SELECT INSURANCE COMPANY 7,556 SERVICE INSURANCE COMPANY 7,557 SHELBY CASUALTY INS CO 7,558 SHELL PIPELINE CORP 7,559 SHELL WESTERN E & P 7,560 SIRIUS AMERICAN INS CO 7,561 SISTERS OF CHAR OF PROV OF MT

PHILADELPHIA PA 19102 1376 PHILADELPHIA PA 19102 1376 ENCINO CA 91436 2936	CA 91436 AZ 85036 D OH 44122	ROCKWOOD PA 15557 SPOKANE WA 99201 ARVADA CO 80006 CHARLOTTE NC 28273	90 F F F	TE NC WA	SAINT LOUIS MO 63166 OAKLAND CA 94660 INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204 0000	MT 59601 NY 10038	LOUIS MO 63166 NGHAM MA 01701 OTTE NC 28201 A NY 14852	DAVIE FL 33314 7431 DALLAS TX 75313 1771 HARTFORD CT 06115 0000 STEVENS POINT WI 54481 MOLINE II 64365	TON FL SHAM AL SHAM AL TX NO COURS MO COURS NY EK NY E
COMPLIANCE DEPT 5TH FL	PO BOX 21551	*	P O BOX 3144	PO BOX 1000	201 4TH ST	ě	PO BOX 1000	<u>-</u>	PO BOX 9729 PO BOX 43360 1000 LOUISIANA STE 4000
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7562 SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH HEALTH SYST	STE 9801 RENNER BLVD STE 100			LENEXA	KS	66219	
2553 SKAGGS ALPHA BETA 264 SOMPO JAPAN INSI IRANCE COMPANY OF AMEDICA	5201 AMELIA EARHART			SALT LAKE CITY	5		
7565 SOUTHERN INSURANCE COMPANY	2727 TURTI E CREEK BLVD	PO BOX 660560		NEW YORK	ž	75266 0560	
266 SPECIALTY NATIONAL INS CO	1 KEMPER DR K-8			LONG GROVE	=		
/567 ST JOSEPH HOSPITAL CORP	_			POLSON	M		
2008 ST PATRICK HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER				SAINT LOUIS	MO	63166	
200 ST PAUL FIRE & MARINE INS CO	PO BOX 1160		F)	COLUMBUS	Ö	43216	
7574 ST PAUL GUARDIAN INSURANCE CO	20800 SWENSON DR STE 300			WAUKESHA	<u>\$</u>	53186	
7571 ST PAUL MEDICAL LIABILITY INS CO	20800 SWENSON DR STE #300			WAUKESHA	3	53186	
A22 ST DECIS DARFE OF	20800 SWENSON DR STE #300			WAUKESHA	₹	53186	
ASTA OT THOUSAND OF IT DO CASHILLY	150 EAST 42ND ST			NEW YORK	ž	10017	
AST STAN WATERS CHILD & FAMILY CNTR	PO BOX 2825			<b>GREAT FALLS</b>	Σ	59403	
A 5/3 STANDARD FIRE WELLSTOOD OF	PO BOX 5328			MISSOULA	Σ	59806 5328	
AND STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE CO	ONE TOWER SQUARE			HARTFORD	Ç	06183 6014	
A78 STABNET MISTIDAMOT CO.	26600 TELEGRAPH RD			SOUTHFIELD	¥	48034	
A70 STATE EADING FIDE 6 DASHELLES OF STATE EADING FIDE 6 DASHELLES	PO BOX 2519			GREENWICH	C <sub>T</sub>	06836 2519	
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/581 STATE FARM MITTIAL ALTOMOBIL TIME OF	112 E WASHINGTON ST			BLOOMINGTON	_	61710	
/ 582 STILLWATED MINING CO	PO BOX 283			SAINT LOUIS	<u>Q</u>	63166	
2583 STOLTZE CONNED LIMBED O	2562 NYE ROAD			NYE	Σ	59061	
7 584 STONE CONTAINED CORD	2497 7TH AVE E STE 105			ST PAUL	Z Z	55109 2802	
A85 STONEBRINGE CASHALTVING IDANICE COMPANY	PO BOX 283			SAINT LOUIS	Θ	63166	
7586 STONEWALLING DANCE COMPANY	2700 W PLANO PARKWAY			PLANO	ĭ	75075 0000	
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A589 SWISS REINCHEANCE AMEDICA CORP.	26541 AGOURA RD	PO BOX 9850		CALABASA	ĕ C		
7590 TARGET CORP	175 KING ST		,	ARMONK	×	10504 0000	
V591 TECHNOLOGY INSLIBANCE COMBANY INCOBBOOKATER	FO BOX 283			SAINT LOUIS	Q N	63166	
7592 TECK COMINCO AMERICAN INC.	59 MAIDEN LANE	20		NEW YORK	ž	10038 0000	
7553 TEXAS EMPLOYERS INDENANTY 50	PO BOX 3087			SPOKANE	WA	99220	
594 TEXAS GENEDAL INDEMNITY CO	3/25 W GRACE ST			TAMPA	Ҵ	33607	
595 THE INCIDENCE COMPANY	2115 WINNE	PO BOX 1259	, _	GALVESTON	ĭ	77553	
_	10451 GULF BLVD		•	TREASURE ISLANIFI	교		
A97 TIG PREMIER INSTIRANCE CO	PO BOX 152870			IRVING	Υį	75015 2870	
7598 TOKIO MARINE & FIRE INSTITUTE CO	220 BARY 4VE			RVING	×	75015	
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## **Laurie Wallace**

From: Sent: To:

Kessner, Patricia [pkessner@state.mt.us] Thursday, February 26, 2004 9:09 AM

Allan M. McGarvey (E-mail); Andrew D. Huppert (E-mail); Andrew J. Scott (E-mail); Andrew J. Utick (E-mail); Anna M. Bidegaray (E-mail); Bradley J. Luck (E-mail); Brendon J. Rohan (E-mail); Cadwallader, Mark; Cameron Ferguson (E-mail); Carl W. Mendenhall (E-mail); Carrie L. Garber (E-mail); Charles E. McNeil (E-mail); Charles G. Adams (Email); Chris J. Ragar (E-mail); Christopher R. Angel (E-mail); Curt Larsen (E-mail); Daniel B. McGregor (E-mail); Daniel Bidegaray (E-mail); Daniel J. Whyte (E-mail); Darcee L. Moe (E-mail); Darrell S. Worm (E-mail); David A. Hawkins (E-mail); David J. Patterson (Email); David M. Sandler (E-mail); David W. Lauridsen (E-mail); Dean Blackaby (E-mail); Donald Hedman (E-mail); Donald R. Herndon (E-mail); Douglas D. Harris (E-mail); Dustin Chouinard (E-mail); Elizabeth A. O'Halloran (E-mail); G. Andrew Adamek (E-mail); G. Curtis Drake (E-mail); Garry D. Seaman (E-mail); Geoffrey R. Keller (E-mail); Greg E. Overturf (E-mail); Gregory Warner (E-mail); Hail, Charlie; Howard Strause (E-mail); Howard Toole (E-mail); J. David Slovak (E-mail); J. Kim Schulke (E-mail); Jack R. Stone (E-mail); James G. Edmiston (E-mail); James G. Hunt (E-mail); James Gardner (E-mail); James R. Hintz (E-mail); Jeff R. Lynch (E-mail); Jeff Simkovic (E-mail); Joe Bottomly (Email); Joe C. Maynard (E-mail); Joe Seifert (E-mail); John C. Doubek (E-mail); John C. Melcher (E-mail); John Seidlitz (E-mail); Jon L. Heberling (E-mail); Julia Swingley (Email); Kelly M. Wills (E-mail); Kevin Braun (E-mail); Kevin Callaghan (E-mail); Kevin Duff (E-mail); Larry W. Jones (E-mail); Laurie Barnhart-Cutler (Angel) (E-mail); Lawrence A. Anderson (E-mail); Leo S. Ward (E-mail); Leslae J. E. Dalpiaz (E-mail); Linda G. Hewitt (E-mail); Lisa A. Speare (E-mail); Lon J. Dale (E-mail); Lucas J. Foust (E-mail); Lucy T. France (E-mail); Mark M. Kovacich (E-mail); Mark R. Taylor (E-mail); Marvin L. Howe (Email); Michael J. Lilly (E-mail); Michael J. McKeon (E-mail); Michael J. Milodragovich (Email); Michael P. Heringer (E-mail); Monte D. Beck (E-mail); Nancy Butler (E-mail); Norman H. Grosfield (E-mail); Norman L. Newhall (E-mail); Oliver H. Goe (E-mail); Pat Wallace (E-mail); Patrick F. Flaherty (E-mail); Patrick G. Frank (E-mail); Patrick R. Sheehy (E-mail); Paul E. Toennis (E-mail); Peter J. Stokstad (E-mail); R. Russell Plath (Email); Rex Palmer (E-mail); Richard H. Renn (E-mail); Richard J. Martin (E-mail); Richard J. Pyfer (E-mail); Richard R. Buley (E-mail); Robert C. Griffin (E-mail); Robert C. Melcher (E-mail); Robert E. Sheridan (E-mail); Robert F. James (E-mail); Robert G. McCarthy (Email); Robert Ogg (E-mail); Robert Smith (E-mail); Roger M. Sullivan (E-mail); Sara Sexe (E-mail); Stacy St. John-Tempel (E-mail); Stephen A. Doherty (E-mail); Stephen C. Pohl (E-mail); Stephen J. Roberts (E-mail); Steve Shapiro (E-mail); Steven S. Carey (E-mail); Steven W. Jennings (E-mail); Stuart C. MacKenzie (E-mail); Sydney McKennna (E-mail); Thomas A. Budewitz (E-mail); Thomas A. Marra (E-mail); Thomas C. Bulman (E-mail); Thomas E. Boland (E-mail); Thomas E. Martello (E-mail); Thomas J. Harrington (E-mail); Thomas J. Murphy (E-mail); Timothy W. McKeon (E-mail); Todd A. Hammer (E-mail); Todd Glazier (E-mail); Tom L. Lewis (E-mail); Toni Marra (E-mail); Victor R. Halverson (Email); William J. Mattix (E-mail); William O. Bronson (E-mail) Global Lien Order from Judge McCarter

Subject:

Importance:

High



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Counsel:

The attached order is the Global Lien Order issued today by Judge McCarter in the matters of Robert Flynn and Carl Miller. If you are unable to open the Word Perfect document the order will be on the Court's website later today.

http://wcc.dli.state.mt.us

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact the Court.



# IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

#### 2004 MTWCC 17

WCC No. 2000-0222 WCC No. 2003-0771

# **ROBERT FLYNN**

and

CARL MILLER, Individually and on behalf of others similarly situated

**Petitioners** 

VS.

# **MONTANA STATE FUND**

Respondent/Insurer.

# ORDER CLARIFYING GLOBAL LIEN

<u>Summary</u>: The Court previously notified all workers' compensation insurers of the global lien claimed by the petitioner's attorney in this case. Mr. Leo S. Ward, an attorney representing one of the notified insurers, questioned whether the amounts claimed in the lien were supposed to be sent to petitioner's attorney. A conference call was then held with Mr. Leo S. Ward and petitioner's attorney, Mr. Rex Palmer.

<u>Held:</u> The common fund lien notice in this case authorizes all Montana insurers who pay benefits to which the lien attaches to withhold the percentages set out in the lien, however, insurers should not remit those amounts to the petitioner's attorneys at the present time. Disposition of the withheld amounts will be determined after the Supreme Court determines whether common fund fees must be paid by all claimants who benefit the underlying decision in this case or only by those claimants who were insured by the respondent, State Compensation Insurance Fund.

#### Topics:

**Attorney Fees: Common Fund.** Where the Workers' Compensation Court has previously held that the common fund doctrine applies only to benefits owed to claimants insured by the respondent in the particular case, *Ruhd v. Liberty* 

Northwest Ins. Corp., 2003 MTWCC 38, the Court will authorize all insurers affected by similar global claims for common fund fees in other cases to withhold the amounts of the attorney fees claimed, at least until such time as the Supreme Court finally determines the scope of the common fund doctrine. However, the withheld amounts should not be remitted to petitioner's attorney. Disposition of the withheld amounts will be determined after the Supreme Court's decision on appeal.

- This Court previously served all Montana workers' compensation insurers with notice of the global lien claimed by the petitioners in the above entitled action. By "global", I mean that the lien is claimed with respect to all claimants entitled to benefits under the Supreme Court decision in *Flynn v. State Compensation Ins. Fund*, 2002 MT 279, irrespective of the insurer.
- On February 24, 2004, the Court held a conference call with Mr. Leo S. Ward, who represents one of the insurers who received the lien notice, and Mr. Rex Palmer, the petitioner's attorney. Mr. Ward indicated that the language in Mr. Palmer's lien could be read as requiring insurers to remit the amounts claimed in the lien directly to Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer and myself agreed that was not the intent of the notice.
- I have previously ruled in *Ruhd v. Liberty Northwest Ins. Corp.*, 2003 MTWCC 38, that a common fund lien extends only to claimants who were insured by the respondent insurer in the case out of which the lien arose, hence in this case it would extend only to the State Compensation Insurance Fund. However, my decision in *Ruhd* is on appeal to the Montana Supreme Court, indeed it has been scheduled for oral argument. In that light, the global lien claimed in this case puts insurers on notice that the petitioner's attorney claims a global lien and authorizes them to withhold the amounts claimed in the lien. In the event my holding in *Ruhd* is upheld, the amounts withheld will be remitted to the claimants. Should the Supreme Court reverse my holding in *Ruhd*, then the amounts withheld will be paid to the petitioner's attorney to the extent approved by the Court. I would still have to determine the appropriate amount of the common fund fees; the amount claimed in the fee is the maximum potential liability. If I were to fix the fee at an amount less than that maximum the difference would be paid to the benefitted claimants.
- ¶4 This Order shall be posted on the Court's WEB site and sent to all attorneys practicing before this Court. I appreciate Mr. Ward bringing this matter to my attention.

DATED in Helena, Mont	tana, this day of February, 2004.	
(SEAL)		
Mr. Dav Dalas	JUDGE	

c: Mr. Rex Palmer Mr. Leo S. Ward

# IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA WCC No. 9907-8274R1

ALEXIS RAUSCH, et al.

**Petitioners** 

VS.

**MONTANA STATE FUND** 

Respondent/Insurer

and

**JEREMY RUHD** 

**Petitioner** 

VS.

# LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORPORATION

Respondent/Insurer.

#### SUMMONS

The State of Montana to the following Insurers and Self-Insureds:

ASARCO INC; BENEFIS HEALTH CARE; CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL CORP; CONOCO INC; CONSOLIDATED FREIGHTWAYS CORP; F H STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO; GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINES INC; HOLLY SUGAR CORP; J C PENNEY CORP INC; K MART CORP; MACO WORKERS' COMP TRUST; MHA WORKERS' COMP TRUST; MONTANA CONTRACTOR COMP FUND; MONTANA MUNICIPAL INS AUTHORITY; MONTANA POWER CO; MONTANA SCHOOLS GROUP INS AUTHORITY; NORTHWEST HEALTHCARE CORP; PLUM CREEK TIMBER CO LP; SISTERS OF CHAR OF PROV OF MT; STAN WATKINS TRUCKING INC; TARGET CORP; TOWN PUMP INC; AMERICAN ECONOMY INS CO; AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE CO; AMERICAN INTERSTATE INS CO;

EXHIBIT 8

ASSOCIATED INDEMNITY CORP; AUTOMOBILE INS CO OF HARTFORD; BANKERS STANDARD INSURANCE CO; CONTINENTAL CASUALTY CO; CREDIT GENERAL INSURANCE CO; EMPLOYERS INS OF WAUSAU MUTUAL CO; FAIRMONT INSURANCE CO; FIREMANS FUND INS CO; FREMONT IND CO OF THE NORTHWEST; FREMONT INDEMNITY CO; INSURANCE COMPANY OF STATE OF PA; LEGION INSURANCE CO; LIBERTY INSURANCE CORP; LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO; LIBERTY NORTHWEST INS CORP; LM INSURANCE CORPORATION; NATIONAL UNION FIRE INS OF PITTSBURGH; NATIONWIDE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO; OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE CO; PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURERS ASSOC; RELIANCE NATIONAL INDEMNITY CO; SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA; STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE CO; TRAVELERS CASUALTY & SURETY CO; TRAVELERS IND CO OF AMERICA; TRAVELERS INDEMNITY CO; TRAVELERS INDEMNITY CO OF CT; TRAVELERS PROPERTY CASUALTY COMP OF AMERICA; VALOR INSURANCE COMPANY INC: WAUSAU UNDERWRITERS INS CO; and ZURICH AMERICAN INSURANCE CO

- If I On January 23, 2003, each of you named in this Summons was sent a Lien Notice notifying you of the attorney fee lien claimed by the petitioners' attorneys in *Rausch*, *et al.*, *v. State Compensation Ins. Fund*, 2002 MT 203, 311 Mont. 210, 54 P.3d 25, with respect to impairment awards due permanently totally disabled claimants pursuant to the decision in that case. In *Ruhd v. Liberty Northwest Ins. Corp.*, 2004 MT 236, 322 Mont. 478 (*Ruhd II*), decided August 31, 2004, the Montana Supreme Court confirmed that lien, holding that a common fund exists with respect to all impairment awards due permanently totally disabled claimants irrespective of the insurers liable for the awards and that the *Rausch* attorneys are entitled to common fund attorney fees with respect to those awards. The Supreme Court specifically directed the Workers' Compensation Court to "supervise enforcement of the common fund pursuant to *Rausch*, and all court-approved agreements stemming from it, from all insurers involved." 2004 MT 236, ¶ 25 (emphasis added).
- ¶2 Each of you named in this Summons has been identified by the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) as paying permanent total disability (PTD) benefits to one or more claimants injured or suffering from an occupational disease (OD) since June 30, 1991, which is the time-frame covered by the *Rausch* decision. Pursuant to *Ruhd II*, this Court must determine which of those claimants are due impairment awards. The Court must also determine what attorney fees are due with respect to the impairment awards.
- ¶3 Accordingly, each of you named in this Summons is **ordered** to continue to withhold the attorney fees claimed in the January 23, 2003 Lien Notice previously served on you in this case.

¶4 Further, each of you is **ordered** to file a **response** to this Summons. In that response you shall provide the Court with the following information:

- The names and last-known addresses of all claimants injured or suffering occupational diseases since June 30, 1991, to whom you have paid PTD benefits at any time.
- The date of injury or OD for each of the claimants identified in response to paragraph 1.
- The date and amount of any impairment awards paid to each claimant identified in answer to paragraph 1. With respect to any award paid after September 5, 2002, state the amount you withheld for attorney fees on account of the Lien Notice.
- With respect to each claimant identified in paragraph 1 who has not been paid an impairment award, state whether an impairment rating has been rendered and the rating given.
- 5. The names and last-known addresses of all claimants injured or suffering occupational diseases since June 30, 1991, who were paid temporary total disability (TTD) benefits for eighteen (18) months or longer.
- 6. With respect to each claimant identified in response to paragraph 5, state the nature of the injury the claimant suffered, the inclusive dates he or she was paid TTD benefits, and the current status of indemnity benefits still being paid or the date and nature of the disposition of the claim if benefits are no longer being paid.
- 7. The names and addresses of each claimant whose claim was settled by you after September 5, 2002, and who was receiving TTD benefits at the time of the settlement.
- 8. As to each claimant identified in response to paragraph 7, provide a copy of the settlement agreement.

In the event you are presently unable to provide the information requested, object to the furnishing of any of the information, or wish to furnish the information or provide access to the information by other means than responding to the above requests, you may respond by so stating. If you respond that you are presently unable to provide the information, you must additionally state why you are unable to do so and state whether you

can provide it at a future date; if able to provide the information at a future date, you must provide an estimate of the time you need to assemble the information and the steps required to do so; and, if you believe you cannot provide the information at all, you must explain the reasons you cannot do so. In the event you object to the furnishing of the information, you must state your specific objections. If you wish to furnish the information by other means than specifically responding to the Court's requests, you must state what means you propose to provide or allow access to the information.

- You may mail your response to the Workers' Compensation Court, P.O. Box 537, Helena, Montana 59624-0537, or send it via Federal Express or other delivery method to the Court at its offices on 1625 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Helena, Montana, 59601. Your response must be received by the Court by Monday, February 14, 2005.
- ¶7 Since confidential information may be involved in your response, <u>DO NOT</u> send copies of your response to the attorneys in *Rausch, Fisch, Frost, and Ruhd,* or for that matter to anyone else. <u>Your response should be sent only to the Court</u>. The Court will determine at a later date whether the information you provide is protected from disclosure to the attorneys in *Rausch, Fisch, Frost, and Ruhd*.

DATED in Helena, Montana, this 10th day of January, 2005.

(SEAL)

/s/ Mike McCarter JUDGE

# IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

WCC No. 2002-0676

#### **DALE REESOR**

**Petitioner** 

FILED

VS.

APR 2 2 2005

# **MONTANA STATE FUND**

Respondent/Insurer.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE HELENA, MONTANA

# SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF ATTORNEY FEE LIEN

The State of Montana to the following Insurers and Self-Insureds:

BEATRICE COMPANIES INC MARKEL INSURANCE COMPANY AMERICAN COMMERCE INS CO ALLMERICA FINANCIAL ALLIANCE INS CO HANOVER INSURANCE CO LUMBER MUTUAL INSURANCE CO AMERICAN MUTUAL INS CO OF BOSTON AMERICAN MUTUAL LIABILITY INS CO ELECTRIC INSURANCE CO HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE CO AMERICAN CENTRAL INS CO NORTHERN ASSURANCE CO OF AMERICA EMPLOYERS FIRE INSURANCE CO HOUSTON GENERAL INSURANCE CO CAMDEN FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCATION ONE BEACON AMERICA INSURANCE CO TRADERS & GENERAL INS CO AMERICAN EMPLOYERS INSURANCE CO PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL INSURANCE CO ONE BEACON INSURANCE COMPANY LEXINGTON INSURANCE COMPANY HOMESITE INSURANCE COMPANY LIBERTY INSURANCE CORP LM PERSONAL INSURANCE COMPANY LM PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE CO WAUSAU BUSINESS INSURANCE CO LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO LM INSURANCE CORPORATION FIRST LIBERTY INSURANCE CORPORTION LM GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY

SEATON INSURANCE CO STONEWALL INSURANCE COMPANY METROPOLITAN DIRECT PROP & CAS INS METROPOLITAN GENERAL INS CO **ECONOMY PREFERRED INS CO** ECONOMY PREMIER ASSURANCE CO ECONOMY FIRE & CASUALTY CO PROVIDENCE WASHINGTON INS CO YORK INSURANCE COMPANY FACTORY MUTUAL INS CO INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE CO NORTH AMERICAN SPECIALTY INS CO NORTH AMERICAN ELITE INSURANCE ATLAS ASSURANCE CO OF AMERICA LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE CO CORE INSURANCE COMPANY ALEA NORTH AMERICA INSURANCE COMPANY ODYSSEY AMERICA REINSURANCE CORP SENTINEL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD HARTFORD INS CO OF THE MIDWEST PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO OF HARTFORD HARTFORD CASUALTY INSURANCE CO HARTFORD UNDERWRITERS INS CO HARTFORD ACCIDENT & INDEMNITY CO AUTOMOBILE INS CO OF HARTFORD CHARTER OAK FIRE INSURANCE CO TRAVELERS INDEMNITY CO OF CT TRAVELERS CASUALTY INS COMPANY OF **AMERICA** TRAVELERS PROPERTY CASUALTY COMP OF

EXHIBIT

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**AMERICA** FARMINGTON CASUALTY CO TRAVELERS IND CO OF AMERICA STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE CO TRAVELERS CAS & SURETY CO OF AMER TRAVELERS COMMERCIAL INS CO TRAVELERS CASUALTY CO OF CONN TRAVELERS COMMERCIAL CASUALTY CO TRAVELERS CASUALTY & SURETY CO PHOENIX INSURANCE CO TRAVELERS PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY **GULF INSURANCE CO** STARNET INSURANCE COMPANY CHARTWELL REINSURANCE COMPANY INSURANCE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK NORTH STAR REINSURANCE CORPORATION XL REINSURANCE AMERICA CLEARWATER INSURANCE COMPANY GREENWICH INSURANCE COMPANY GENERAL REINSURANCE CORP FAIRFIELD INSURANCE COMPANY GENESIS INSURANCE COMPANY MITSUI SUMITOMO INS CO OF AMERICA EXECUTIVE RISK INDEMNITY INC PACIFIC INDEMNITY CO FEDERAL INSURANCE CO GREAT NORTHERN INSURANCE CO QUADRANT INDEMNITY COMPANY CHUBB NATIONAL INS CO VIGILANT INSURANCE CO CHUBB INDEMNITY INS CO NATIONAL COLONIAL INS, IN LIQUIDATION ICM INSURANCE COMPANY **EVEREST NATIONAL INS CO** CENTENNIAL INSURANCE CO ARCH REINSURANCE COMPANY UNITED STATES FIRE INSURANCE CO NORTH RIVER INSURANCE CO CRUM AND FOSTER INDEMNITY COMPANY LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC AMERICAN REINSURANCE COMPANY AMERICAN ALTERNATIVE INS CORP HIGHLANDS INSURANCE CO WESCO INSURANCE COMPANY AT&T COMMUNICATIONS INC AXA CORPORATE SOLUTIONS INSURANCE CO CENTRE INSURANCE COMPANY MITSUI SUMITOMO INS USA INC

CONNIE LEE INSURANCE CO RAMPART INSURANCE COMPANY WESTERN CONTINENTAL INS CO AXA RE AMERICA INS CO CONVERIUM INSURANCE (NORTH AMERICA) INC QBE INSURANCE CORPORATION ATLANTIC MUTUAL INSURANCE CO CONVERIUM REINSURANCE (NORTH AMERICA) INC ATLANTIC SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY FOLKSAMERICA REINSURANCE COMPANY LIBERTY INS UNDERWRITERS INC XL INS CO OF NEW YORK INC HUDSON INSURANCE COMPANY PUBLIC SERVICE MUTUAL INS CO GERLING AMERICA INSURANCE COMPANY QUANTA INDEMNITY COMPANY INSURANCE CORPORATION OF HANNOVER REDLAND INSURANCE COMPANY CLARENDON NATIONAL INS CO CITY INSURANCE CO HOME INSURANCE CO AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC INS CO SIRIUS AMERICAN INS CO ILLINOIS NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY GENERAL SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY GENERAL SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY NICHIDO FIRE & MARINE INS CO HOME INDEMNITY CO THE SCOR REINSURANCE COMPANY COMMERCE & INDUSTRY INSURANCE CO TECHNOLOGY INSURANCE CO INC CHURCH MUTUAL INSURANCE CO CONSTITUTION INSURANCE COMPANY NAVIGATORS INSURANCE COMPANY TOKIO MARINE & FIRE INSURANCE CO TRANS PACIFIC INSURANCE COMPANY NATIONAL UNION FIRE INS OF PITTSBURGH AMERICAN HOME ASSURANCE CO NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE CO GRANITE STATE INSURANCE CO INSURANCE COMPANY OF STATE OF PA AIU INSURANCE CO BIRMINGHAM FIRE INS CO OF PA SOMPO JAPAN INSURANCE COMPANY OF **AMERICA** PARTNER REINS CO OF NEW YORK

SWISS REINSURANCE AMERICA CORP LANCER INSURANCE COMPANY **NEWARK INSURANCE CO** HEALTHCARE UNDERWRITERS MUT INS CO UNITED COMMUNITY INSURANCE CO FRONTIER INSURANCE COMPANY UTICA MUTUAL INSURANCE CO FEDEX GROUND PACKAGE SYSTEM INC P P G INDUSTRIES INC **ROCKWOOD INSURANCE CO** ROCKWOOD CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE CO PHICO INSURANCE CO PENNSYLVANIA CASUALTY COMPANY PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL MUTUAL CASUALTY AMGUARD INSURANCE COMPANY **EASTGUARD INSURANCE COMPANY** NORGUARD INSURANCE COMPANY UNITED NATIONAL CASUALTY INSURANCE CO PENN STAR INSURANCE COMPANY UNITED STATES LIABILITY INS CO INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA ACE FIRE UNDERWRITERS INS CO ACE INDEMNITY INSURANCE COMPANY PACIFIC EMPLOYERS INSURANCE CO BANKERS STANDARD FIRE & MARINE ACE PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO ACE AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY BANKERS STANDARD INSURANCE CO INDEMNITY INS CO OF NORTH AMERICA RELIANCE INSURANCE CO RELIANCE UNIVERSAL INS CO RELIANCE NATIONAL INSURANCE CO RELIANCE NATIONAL INDEMNITY CO **RELIANCE DIRECT INS CO** UNITED PACIFIC INSURANCE CO LEGION INSURANCE CO VILLANOVA INSURANCE COMPANY VILLANOVA INSURANCE COMPANY AMERICAN FUJI FIRE & MARINE INS CO OVERSEAS PARTNERS US REINSURANCE ACE AMERICAN REINSURANCE CO CENTURY INDEMNITY CO PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURERS ASSOC MANUFACTURES ALLIANCE INSURANCE CO PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURERS INDEMNITY COMPANY HARLEYSVILLE INSURANCE COMPANY AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SPECIALTY LINES

**INSURANCE** AMERICAN CENTENNIAL INSURANCE CO ULICO CASUALTY COMPANY **GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INS CO** GEICO INDEMNITY COMPANY GEICO CASUALTY COMPANY PROFESSIONALS ADVOCATE INS CO **EULER AMERICAN CREDIT INDEMNITY CO** MONUMENTAL GENERAL CASUALTY CO ASSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA MARYLAND CASUALTY CO VALIANT INSURANCE COMPANY AMERICAN GENERAL CORP SEABOARD SURETY COMPANY RECIPROCAL OF AMERICA INS CO TRIAD GUARANTY INSURANCE COMPANY INTEGON NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY ALAMANCE INSURANCE COMPANY FIRST FINANCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OCCIDENTAL FIRE & CASUALTY CO OF NC **VEREX ASSURANCE INC GROCERS INSURANCE COMPANY** SAFEGUARD INSURANCE COMPANY ORION INSURANCE COMPANY AMERICAN & FOREIGN INS CO SECURITY INS CO OF HARTFORD **GUARANTY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY** AXIS REINSURANCE COMPANY FIRE & CASUALTY INS CO OF CONN GLOBE INDEMNITY CO PHOENIX ASSURANCE CO OF NEW YORK CONNECTICUT INDEMNITY CO **EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INS CO** ROYAL INDEMNITY COMPANY **GUARANTEE INSURANCE CO** AIG NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL INS CO INTERNATIONAL INDEMNITY CO INDUSTRIAL UNDERWRITERS INS CO WESTCHESTER FIRE INSURANCE CO **GEORGIA PACIFIC CORP** AMERICAN SAFETY CASUALTY INS CO ATLANTA SPECIALTY INS CO FIRST PROFESSIONALS INSURANCE COMPANY **INCORPORATE** PIE NATIONWIDE INC FIDELITY NATIONAL PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INS CO RYDER SYSTEMS INC

SECURITY NATIONAL INS CO LUMBERMENS UNDERWRITING ALLIANCE FIRST SOUTHERN INSURANCE CO TEXAS EMPLOYERS INDEMNITY CO THE INSURANCE COMPANY SERVICE INSURANCE COMPANY HORIZON CMS HEALTHCARE CORP SHELBY CASUALTY INS CO MEDICAL ASSURANCE CO INC CATERPILLAR INSURANCE COMPANY PERMANENT GENERAL ASSURANCE CORP MERASTAR INSURANCE CO FEDERAL EXPRESS CORP WAVERLEY MONTANA INC AMERICAN HARDWARE MUTUAL INS CO NATIONWIDE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO NATIONWIDE PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO CREDIT GENERAL INSURANCE CO ST PAUL FIRE & MARINE INS CO CONTINENTAL CASUALTY CO CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL CORP BORDEN CHEMICAL INC **EVERGREEN NATIONAL INDEMNITY** ROCHDALE INSURANCE COMPANY BRISTOL WEST INSURANCE COMPANY PROGRESSIVE CASUALTY INS CO NATIONAL CONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO NATIONAL INTERSTATE INS CO WEST AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY OHIO SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY **AVOMARK INS CO AMERICAN FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY** OHIO CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY COMPASS INSURANCE COMPANY NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL INS CO OF MIL GREAT AMERICAN INS CO OF NEW YORK GREAT AMERICAN ALLIANCE INS CO GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE CO WORLDWIDE INSURANCE COMPANY GREAT AMERICAN SPIRIT INSURANCE CO GREAT AMERICAN ASSURANCE CO CINCINNATI INSURANCE COMPANY CINCINNATI CASUALTY COMPANY CINCINNATI INDEMNITY COMPANY PROTECTIVE INSURANCE CO SAGAMORE INSURANCE COMPANY **IGF INSURANCE COMPANY** GRAIN DEALERS MUTUAL INSURANCE CO NATIONAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

INDIANA LUMBERMENS MUTUAL INS CO **BROTHERHOOD MUTUAL INS CO** FORT WAYNE HEALTH & CASUALTY INS CO YOSEMITE INSURANCE COMPANY STAR INSURANCE CO WILLIAMSBURG NATIONAL INS CO K MART CORP NATIONAL GENERAL INS CO MIC GENERAL INS CORP MIC PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CORP MOTORS INSURANCE CORPORATION CIM INSURANCE CORPORATION HOLCIM (US) INC INTREPID INSURANCE COMPANY AMERISURE MUTUAL INSURANCE CO DAIMLER CHRYSLER INSURANCE COMPANY FRANKENMUTH MUTUAL INS CO INSURANCE CORPORATION OF AMERICA AMERICAN PHYSICIANS ASSURANCE CORP ACCIDENT FUND INSURANCE COMPANY OF **AMERICA** MICHIGAN MILLERS MUTUAL INSURANCE CO **GUIDANT SPECIALTY MUTUAL INS CO** GUIDEONE MUTUAL INS CO WESTERN AGRICULTURAL INS CO **EMCASCO INSURANCE COMPANY** AMERICAN LIBERTY INSURANCE CO DAKOTA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY **ALLIED MUTUAL INSURANCE CO** CONTINENTAL WESTERN INS CO HOMELAND CENTRAL INSURANCE CO BERKLEY REGIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY UNION INS CO OF PROVIDENCE CENTURION CASUALTY COMPANY NATIONWIDE AGRIBUSINESS INS CO FARMLAND MUTUAL INSURANCE CO AMCO INSURANCE COMPANY ALLIED PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS COMPANY **DEPOSITORS INSURANCE COMPANY** PHARMACIST MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY ACCEPTANCE INDEMNITY INS CO IOWA MUTUAL INSURANCE CO FIREMANS FUND INS CO OF WISCONSIN NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL CASUALTY CO NN INSURANCE COMPANY ST PAUL GUARDIAN INSURANCE CO ST PAUL MERCURY INSURANCE CO ST PAUL MEDICAL LIABILITY INS CO UNITED WISCONSIN INS CO

COMMERCIAL LOAN INS CORP LAURIER INDEMNITY COMPANY INCORPORATED REGENT INSURANCE CO GENERAL CASUALTY CO OF WISCONSIN WINTERTHUR INTERNATIONAL AMERICA INS CO CUMIS INSURANCE SOCIETY INC PLATTE RIVER INSURANCE COMPANY NATIONWIDE INS CO OF AMERICA AMERICAN FAMILY MUTUAL INSURANCE CO AMERICAN STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY OF WISCONSIN DAIRYLAND INSURANCE COMPANY SENTRY INSURANCE MUTUAL CO MIDDLESEX INSURANCE COMPANY SENTRY SELECT INSURANCE COMPANY FEDERATED SERVICE INSURANCE CO FEDERATED MUTUAL INSURANCE CO FIDELITY & GUARANTY INS UNDERWRITERS ATHENA ASSURANCE CO ST PAUL PROTECTIVE INSURANCE COMPANY DISCOVER PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS CO UNITED STATES FIDELITY & GUARANTY CO FIDELITY & GUARANTY INS CO NORTHBROOK INDEMNITY CO STOLTZE CONNER LUMBER CO F H STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO NORTHLAND CASUALTY COMPANY NORTHLAND INSURANCE COMPANY MODERN SERVICE INSURANCE COMPANY CHS INC TARGET CORP NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION NORTHWESTERN ENERGY L L C DAKOTA TRUCK UNDERWRITERS AMERICAN WEST INSURANCE CO STILLWATER MINING CO VALOR INSURANCE COMPANY INC WAGGONERS TRUCKING THE HOLY ROSARY HOSPITAL MONTANA HEALTH NETWORK WC INS TRUST WESTERN ENERGY CO PEABODY COAL CO BENEFIS HEALTH CARE ST THOMAS CHILD & FAMILY CNTR **COLUMBUS HOSPITAL CORP** MONTANA ELECTRIC & TELEPHONE POOL MONTANA CONTRACTOR COMP FUND UNIVERSITY OF GREAT FALLS SCIF HORSERACING

COMBINED BENEFITS INS CO MACO WORKERS COMP TRUST MONTANA SCHOOLS GROUP INS AUTHORITY MONTANA STATE FUND MHA WORKERS COMP TRUST MONTANA MUNICIPAL INS AUTHORITY MUS SELF-FUNDED WORK COMP PROGRAM CONSOLIDATED FREIGHTWAYS CORP MONTANA RESOURCES **ENTECH INC MONTANA POWER CO TOWN PUMP INC GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINES INC** MISSOULA COUNTY WC GROUP INS AUTHORITY MISSOULA COUNTY STAN WATKINS TRUCKING INC WATKINS & SHEPARD TRUCKING INC MONTANA LOGGERS EXCHANGE ST JOSEPH HOSPITAL CORP NORTHWEST HEALTHCARE CORP PLUM CREEK TIMBER CO INC HARCO NATIONAL INSURANCE CO ALLSTATE INSURANCE CO WESTERN DIVERSIFIED CASUALTY INS EVANSTON INSURANCE COMPANY AMERICAN CONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO VIRGINIA SURETY COMPANY INCORPORATED AMERICAN PROTECTION INSURANCE CO AMERICAN MOTORISTS INSURANCE CO SPECIALTY NATIONAL INS CO NABISCO INC AMERICAN AMBASSADOR CASUALTY CO COLONIAL PENN FRANKLIN INS CO AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL INS COMPANY XL SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY FORUM INSURANCE CO WESTERN FRUIT EXPRESS CO COLONIAL AMERICAN CASUALTY & SURETY NORTHERN INS CO OF NEW YORK AMERICAN ZURICH INSURANCE CO ZURICH AMERICAN INSURANCE CO ZURICH AMERICAN INS CO OF ILLINOIS AMERICAN GUARANTEE & LIABILITY INS CO FIDELITY & DEPOSIT CO OF MARYLAND HERITAGE CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY MILLERS NATIONAL INSURANCE CO TRANSGUARD INS CO OF AMERICA INC ROYAL INS CO OF AMERICA NATIONAL SURETY CORP

WARNER INSURANCE COMPANY UNION TANK CAR CO COREGIS INSURANCE COMPANY INTERCONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO SEABRIGHT INSURANCE COMPANY COMMERCIAL INS CO OF NEWARK NJ CONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO FIREMENS INS CO OF NEWARK NJ VALLEY FORGE INSURANCE CO TRANSCONTINENTAL INSURANCE CO NIAGARA FIRE INSURANCE CO FIDELITY & CASUALTY CO OF NEW YORK NATIONAL FIRE INS CO OF HARTFORD BOSTON OLD COLONY INS CO AMERICAN CASUALTY CO OF READING PA GLENS FALLS INSURANCE CO KANSAS CITY FIRE & MARINE INS CO CONTINENTAL NATIONAL INDEMNITY BITUMINOUS FIRE & MARINE INS CO BITUMINOUS CASUALTY CORP LEXON INSURANCE COMPANY **RLI INDEMNITY CO** COUNTRY MUTUAL INS CO COUNTRY PREFERRED INS CO COUNTRY CASUALTY INS CO STATE FARM GENERAL INS CO MILLERS FIRST INSURANCE COMPANY FLORISTS MUTUAL INSURANCE CO MIDWEST EMPLOYERS CASUALTY CO LYNDON PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY VANLINER INSURANCE CO SMURFIT STONE CONTAINER ENTERPRISES INC SAFETY FIRST INSURANCE COMPANY SAFETY NATIONAL CASUALTY CORP TRAVELERS INDEMNITY CO STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INS CO AMERICAN DRUG STORES INC SHELL WESTERN E & P STATE FARM FIRE & CASUALTY CO NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE CO INTERNATIONAL PAPER CO MONTGOMERY WARD & CO INC ST PATRICK HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER FLYING J INC METROPOLITAN PROP & CAS INS CO CONTINENTAL BAKING CO ARCH INSURANCE COMPANY CASUALTY RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE

ARMED FORCES INSURANCE EXCHANGE WESTPORT INSURANCE CORP **EMPLOYERS REINSURANCE CORP** BENCHMARK INSURANCE COMPANY ASH GROVE CEMENT CO UNIVERSAL UNDERWRITERS INS CO FEDERATED RURAL ELECTRIC INS EXCHANGE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH **HEALTH SYSTEM** CIMARRON INSURANCE CO CONAGRA FOODS INC CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMPANY PREFERRED PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY NATIONAL INDEMNITY COMPANY PROTECTIVE NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF OMAHA CENTRAL NATIONAL INS CO OF OMAHA UNION INSURANCE COMPANY GREAT WEST CASUALTY CO GRAY INSURANCE COMPANY AMERICAS INSURANCE COMPANY AMERICAN INTERSTATE INS CO AUDUBON INSURANCE COMPANY **BANCINSURE INC** CONOCO PIPELINE CO OLD REPUBLIC SECURITY ASSURANCE CO NATIONAL AMERICAN INSURANCE CO STONINGTON INSURANCE COMPANY FAIRMONT INSURANCE CO TIG INSURANCE CO TIG PREMIER INSURANCE CO J C PENNEY CORP INC ATLANTIC INSURANCE COMPANY TRANSPORTATION INS CO TRANSPORT INSURANCE CO LEADER INSURANCE COMPANY STONEBRIDGE CASUALTY INS COMPANY **EMPLOYERS CASUALTY COMPANY IN** RECEIVERSHIP **NL INDUSTRIES** ACIG INSURANCE COMPANY TRINITY UNIVERSAL INS CO OF KANSAS TRINITY UNIVERSAL INSURANCE CO SOUTHERN INSURANCE COMPANY SELECT INSURANCE CO BANKERS MULTIPLE LINE INS CO MILLERS INSURANCE COMPANY TRITON INSURANCE COMPANY

ANR FREIGHT SYSTEMS INC SHELL PIPELINE CORP **GREAT MIDWEST INS CO** US SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY NATIONAL INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS RANGER INSURANCE CO CONOCO INC TWIN CITY FIRE INSURANCE CO PHILLIPS PETROLEUM CO PETROLEUM CASUALTY CO HOLLY SUGAR CORP TEXAS GENERAL INDEMNITY CO ARGONAUT NORTHWEST INS CO ROSEBURG FOREST PRODUCTS CO QWEST CORPORATION **EMPLOYERS MUTUAL CASUALTY CO** MONTANA INS GUARANTY ASSOC FIREMANS FUND INS CO ASSOCIATED LOGGERS EXCHANGE WASATCH CREST MUTUAL INS CO KROGER CO THE SKAGGS ALPHA BETA ALBERTSONS INC ADVANTAGE WORKERS COMP INS CO CYPRUS MINES CORPORATION **ASARCO INC** REPUBLIC WESTERN INSURANCE CO **CIRCLE K CORPORATION** AMERICAN SUMMIT INS CO **BROWNING FERRIS INDUSTRIES INC** CALIFORNIA INDEMNITY INS CO COMMERCIAL CASUALTY INS CO **FARMERS INSURANCE EXCHANGE** MID CENTURY INSURANCE CO TRUCK INSURANCE EXCHANGE NATIONAL AMERICAN INS CO OF CA MISSION AMERICAN INSURANCE CO FREMONT PACIFIC INSURANCE CO **EMPLOYERS FIRST INSURANCE COMPANY EMPLOYERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE** COMPANY FREMONT INDEMNITY CO FREMONT COMPENSATION INS CO ZENITH INSURANCE COMPANY CALIFORNIA COMPENSATION INS CO REPUBLIC INDEMNITY CO OF CA REPUBLIC INDEMNITY CO OF AMERICA ALLIANZ GLOBAL RISKS US INSURANCE CO INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE WEST

EXPLORER INSURANCE COMPANY WESTERN EMPLOYERS INS CO NATIONAL FARMERS UNION PROP & CAS UNION OIL COMPANY OF CA ARGONAUT MIDWEST INS CO ARGONAUT INSURANCE CO CHEVRON CORP HIH AMERICA COMP & LIABILITY INS CO MAJESTIC INSURANCE COMPANY SUPERIOR NATIONAL INS CO **CLASSIC FIRE & MARINE COMPANY** SAFEWAY INC FIREMANS FUND INS CO OF OHIO AMERICAN INSURANCE CO ASSOCIATED INDEMNITY CORP AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE INS CO **AMFAC INC** AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS MUTUAL **INSURANCE** KEMPER CASUALTY INS CO LUMBERMENS MUTUAL CASUALTY CO COMMERCIAL COMP CASUALTY INS CO WAUSAU UNDERWRITERS INS CO EMPLOYERS INS OF WAUSAU MUTUAL CO LOUISIANA PACIFIC CORP LIBERTY NORTHWEST INS CORP NORTHWEST PHYSICIANS MUTUAL INS CO NATIONWIDE AFFINITY INS CO OF AMER LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTERS OF MONT INC FREMONT INDEMNITY CO UNIGARD INSURANCE CO WASHINGTON CASUALTY COMPANY COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL INS COMPANY FREMONT IND CO OF THE NORTHWEST **ERNST HOME CENTERS** PLUM CREEK MGMT CO LP PLUM CREEK TIMBER CO LP SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA SAFECO INSURANCE CO OF ILLINOIS FIRST NATIONAL INS CO OF AMERICA **AMERICAN STATES INS CO AMERICAN STATES PREFERRED GENERAL INS CO OF AMERICA** J H KELLY INC JHKELLY LLC ROSAUERS SUPERMARKETS INC SISTERS OF CHAR OF PROV OF MT AMERICAN ECONOMY INS CO

# TECK COMINCO AMERICAN INC ALASKA NATIONAL INSURANCE CO

- On December 22, 2004, the Montana Supreme Court held that the age-related limits imposed by section 39-71-11 710, MCA (1999), on a claimant's permanent partial disability benefit is unconstitutional. The Court further determined that older claimants are entitled to the same permanent partial disability benefits as younger claimants. Reesor v. Montana State Fund, 2004 MT 370. A copy of that decision may be found by going to this Court's WEB site at http://wcc.dli.mt.gov/reesor\_info.asp and selecting the link to the decision.
- The Supreme Court remanded the case to this Court for a redetermination of the benefits due the petitioner. Following remand, on January 20, 2005, petitioner's attorney filed Petitioner's Notice of Common Fund Attorney Fee Lien, a copy of which is attached. In that lien notice he claims an attorney fee lien on all additional benefits due claimants injured on or after July 1, 1987, and prior to December 22, 2004, as a result of the Supreme Court's decision and which are paid after December 22, 2004. The claimed lien extends to all Montana insurers and self-insurers. The lien is for twenty-five percent of the additional benefits.
- Until further order of this Court, each insurer and self-insurer named in this summons is authorized to withhold twenty-five percent of additional benefits paid after December 22, 2004, on account of the Reesor decision to claimants who were injured on or after July 1, 1987, and prior to December 22, 2004.
- Further, each of you is made a respondent to the petitioner's common fund claims and summoned to answer the petitioner's request for certification of a common fund and enforcement of his attorney's lien. Your written answer must include any defenses you may have to the request for common fund certification and must be received at the Workers' Compensation Court at P.O. Box 537, Helena, MT 59624-0537, or delivered to its offices at 1625 11th Avenue, Helena, Montana, on or before June 6, 2005. A copy of your answer must also be served on petitioner's attorney, Mr. Thomas J. Murphy, at Murphy Law Firm, P.O. Box 3226, Great Falls, MT 59403-3226.
- Following the deadline for the filing of your answer, the Court will conduct further proceedings to determine whether a common fund exists, the extent of any common fund, and the petitioner's entitlement to attorney fees pursuant to the common fund doctrine. If the Court finds there is a common fund, then proceedings to enforce common fund entitlements and the petitioner's attorney fee lien will follow. Resolution of these legal issues, and any attendant issues, will govern this case and apply to each of you.

To facilitate dissemination of your answer and of subsequent motions, briefs, orders, court minutes, and hearing transcripts, the Court will post all non-privileged documents in this case under the common fund section of its WEB site at www.wcc.dli.mt.gov.

DATED in Helena, Montana, this 22 day of April, 2005.

Attachment: Petitioner's Notice of Common Fund Attorney Fee Lien

Summons and Notice of Attorney Fee Lien - Page 8

THOMAS J. MURPHY Murphy Law Firm P.O. Box 3226 Great Falls, MT 59403-3226 Phone: 406-452-2345 Fax: 406-452-2999 Attorneys for Petitioner

FILED

JAN 2 0 2005

IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATIELES HOW TANA

DALE REESOR,
Petitioner,

Vs.

MONTANA STATE FUND
Respondent/Insurer

DALE REESOR,
Petitioner,
Petitioner,
PETITIONER'S NOTICE
OF COMMON FUND
ATTORNEY FEE LIEN

COMES NOW the undersigned to give notice of his attorney fee lien to all workers' compensation insurance companies who provided workers' compensation insurance coverage in Montana between June 30, 1987, and the present date. All Plan I, II, & III workers' compensation insurers should take notice of the undersigned's common fund attorney fee lien. The subject attorney fee lien applies to every workers' compensation claim, with date of injury on or after June 30, 1987, wherein the claimant was denied full and equal workers' compensation benefits because of the unconstitutional operation of Section 39-71-710 MCA (1987 to present). The common fund attorney fee lien was created by the decision of the Montana Supreme Court in Reesor v. State Fund, 2004 MT 370 (12/22/04). All ascertainable claimants eligible for full and equal "Reesor" benefits should be required to contribute, in proportion to the benefits they receive, to the cost of the Reesor litigation, including attorney fees. The subject attorney fee lien does not apply to workers' compensation claims with dates of injury on or after December 23, 2004.

DATED this 18th day of January, 2004.

Thomas J. Murphy

Attorney for Petitioner Reesor

FILED

Todd A. Hammer David M. Sandler HAMMER, HEWITT, SANDLER & JACOBS PLLC

Attorneys at Law P.O. Box 7310 Kalispell, MT 59904-0310

Telephone: (406) 755-2225 Facsimile:

(406) 755-5155

Attorneys for Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P.

FEB 1 4 2005

OFFICE OF VORKER'S COMPENSATION JUDGE HELENA, MONTANA

IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

ALEXIS RAUSCH et. al.,

Petitioners.

VS.

MONTANA STATE FUND.

Respondent/Insurer,

and

JEREMY RUHD,

Petitioner.

VS.

LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORPORATION,

Respondent/Insurer.

WCC NO. 9907-8274R1

**BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PLUM CREEK** TIMBER COMPANY, L.P.'S **OBJECTIONS TO SUMMONS AND** MOTION TO QUASH SUMMONS



Plum Creek makes this special appearance and objects to the Summons issued by this Court on January 10, 2005 and moves this Court to quash the Summons. Plum Creek respectfully submits that the Supreme Court did not authorize this Court to issue a summons to non-party insurers and to order them to produce the information when it stated that this Court is to "supervise enforcement of the common fund pursuant to *Rausch*, and all court-approved agreements stemming from it, from all insurers involved." As fully explained below, this Court did not have jurisdiction to issue the Summons and does not currently have jurisdiction over Plum Creek in this case. Indeed, because there is not currently a justiciable controversy involving Plum Creek, there is no one with standing to oppose Plum Creek's objection or Motion to Quash Summons. Moreover, Plum Creek respectfully submits that this Court is creating legal duties for Plum Creek out of whole cloth which were not intended by the Supreme Court. Accordingly, this Court should quash the Summons issued to Plum Creek.

# **LAW AND ARGUMENT**

Although this Court's rules do not contain any provision regarding challenging this Court's jurisdiction, it is well established that a party may make an appearance in a case to challenge the court's jurisdiction. See, e.g., F. W. Woolworth Co., Inc. v. Employment Sec. Division of Montana State Dept. of Labor and Industry, 192 Mont. 289, 300-01, 627 P.2d 851, 858 (1981) (explaining that a party can attack a court's jurisdiction by raising the jurisdictional issue in an initial response). For any of the following reasons, this Court should quash the Summons directed to Plum Creek:

A. Plum Creek is not a party to this case and, consequently, this Court had no jurisdiction to issue a summons to Plum Creek.

At the outset, this Court did not have jurisdiction to issue the Summons to Plum Creek, or to any other non-party, particularly since no person with standing has asked this Court to do so. Neither the Montana Workers' Compensation Act nor this Court's rules authorize this Court to sua sponte issue a summons to persons or entities that are not parties to a case. Without a specific grant of authority to issue a summons, this Court simply does not have the power to do so.

Indeed, a ruling allowing this Court the power and authority to *sua sponte* issue summons to non-parties would give this Court far more power in this regard than any other court in Montana. This Court has commonly looked to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure for guidance in matters not governed by its own rules. See, e.g., Broyles v. Albertson's, Inc., 2003 MTWCC 61, ¶ 12 (citation omitted). Rule 4(C)(1), M.R.Civ.P., provides that process by which a summons may be issued by Montana's district courts.

Notably, there is nothing in this rule authorizing a district court to *sua sponte* issue a summons to a non-party. The rule makes it clear that a district court may issue a summons only after the plaintiff has filed a complaint and, thereafter, requested the district court to do so. It states as follows:

(1) Summons--Issuance. Upon or after filing the complaint, the plaintiff or, if the plaintiff is represented by an attorney, the plaintiff's attorney shall present a summons to the clerk for issuance. If the summons is in proper form, the clerk shall issue it and deliver it to the plaintiff or to the plaintiff's attorney who shall thereafter deliver it for service upon the defendant in the manner prescribed by these rules. Issuance and service of the summons shall be accomplished within the times prescribed by Rule 4E of these rules. Upon request, the clerk shall issue separate or additional summons against any parties designated in the original action, or against any additional parties who may be brought into the action, which separate or additional summons shall also be served in the manner and within the times prescribed by these rules. The party requesting issuance of the summons shall bear the burden of having it properly issued and served.

Since there is nothing giving this Court the authority to issue a summons on its own, this Court has not acquired jurisdiction over Plum Creek. Rule 4(B)(2), M.R.Civ.P., provides as follows

Acquisition of Jurisdiction. Jurisdiction may be acquired by our courts over any person through service of process as herein provided; or by the voluntary appearance in an action by any person either personally, or through an attorney, or through any other authorized officer, agent or employee.

No one with standing has followed the procedure to have this Court issue a summons to Plum Creek; i.e., no person with standing has filed any sort of claim against Plum Creek or requested that this Court issue a summons to Plum Creek. The procedure employed by this Court is akin to a district court *sua sponte* making a third-party claim under Rule 14, M.R.Civ.P. Montana's district courts obviously do not have the power to *sua sponte* make third-party claims. Moreover, Plum Creek has not voluntarily appeared in this case. Accordingly, this Court had no jurisdiction to issue the Summons and, consequently, this Court should quash the Summons.

B. This Court does not currently have jurisdiction over Plum Creek because no dispute exists between Plum Creek and any claimants injured or suffering occupational diseases since June 30, 1991 or any attorneys and because no dispute has been presented pursuant to the Workers' Compensation and Occupational Disease Acts and this Court's rules.

Assuming for sake of argument that this Court had the authority to *sua sponte* issue summons to non-parties, it currently has no jurisdiction over Plum Creek. It is well established that this Court lacks jurisdiction where the parties have not completed the mediation process required by § 39-71-2408(1) and §39-71-2905(1), MCA. *See, e.g., Preston v. Transportation Ins. Co.*, 324 Mont. 225, 102 P.3d 527, 530-531 (2004).

Presumably because there is presently no dispute between Plum Creek and any permanently totally disable claimants or the *Rausch* attorneys, Plum Creek has not mediated any dispute with any claimant over their entitlement to an impairment award, or with any attorney who has made a claim for common fund attorney fees. Since Plum Creek has not been a party to any such mediation, this Court does not have jurisdiction over Plum Creek.

Likewise, this Court's jurisdiction extends only to the "adjudication of disputes arising under Title 39, chapter 71 and chapter 72, MCA." Rule 24.5.101(2)(a), ARM. Along these same lines, this Court recently recognized that its jurisdiction extends only to justiciable controversies:

"Courts have no jurisdiction to determine matters purely speculative, enter anticipatory judgments, declare social status, deal with theoretical problems, give advisory opinions, answer moot questions, adjudicate academic matters, provide for contingencies which may hereafter arise, or give abstract opinions." *Marbut v. Secretary of State*, 231 Mont. 131, 135, 752 P.2d 148, 150 (1988). In *Gryczan v. State*, 283 Mont. 433, 442, 942 P.2d 112, 117 (1997), the Supreme Court laid out the following test to distinguish hypothetical questions from true cases and controversies:

The test of whether a justiciable controversy exists is: (1) that the parties have existing and genuine, as distinguished from theoretical, rights or interests; (2) the controversy must be one upon which the judgment of the court may effectively operate, as distinguished from a debate or argument invoking a purely political, administrative, philosophical or academic conclusion; and (3) the controversy must be one the judicial determination of which will have the effect of a final judgment in law or decree in equity upon the rights, status or legal

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relationships of one or more of the real parties in interest, or lacking these qualities, be of such overriding public moment as to constitute the legal equivalent of all of them.

Hernandez v. ACE USA, 2003 MTWCC 47, ¶4.

There is currently no dispute or case and controversy between Plum Creek and any claimants impacted by the Supreme Court's decision in *Rausch* or the *Rausch* attorneys. Plum Creek is well aware of the Supreme Court's decisions in *Rausch* and *Ruhd*, and the fact that the *Rausch* attorneys have filed liens. Until an actual controversy arises between Plum Creek and a claimant entitled to benefits under *Rausch* or the *Rausch* attorneys, there is no justiciable controversy for this Court to handle. Thus, this Court does not currently have jurisdiction over Plum Creek, and this Court should therefore quash the Summons.

C. This is not a class action, and class action claims have not been asserted in this action against any of the self-insureds which have not been made parties to this action.

Although this Court did not specify what it intends to do with the information has requested, it appears the procedure this Court is employing in the case at bar is, in essence, turning the *Rausch* case into a class-action suit against every insurer that has done business in Montana. This, however, is not allowed in Montana. Rule 23(a), M.R.Civ.P., states:

Rule 23(a). Prerequisites to a class action. One or more members of a class may sue or be sued as representative parties on behalf of all only if (1) the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, (2) there are questions of law or fact common to the class, (3) the claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class, and (4) the representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.

In *Murer v. Montana State Compensation Mut. Ins. Fund*, 257 Mont. 434, 849 P.2d 1036, (1993), the Supreme Court held that claimants are not entitled to bring a class action suite against insurers with whom they have had no dealing:

Generally in the application of the typicality requirement of Rule 23(a)(3), the plaintiffs are not entitled to bring a class action against defendants with whom they have had no dealings. There are numerous

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defendants in this action with which the plaintiffs have had no dealing. The leading case construing this requirement is La Mar v. H & B Novelty and Loan Co. (9th Cir.1973), 489 F.2d 461. The court stated: "in our view, under proper application of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the plaintiffs here are not entitled to bring a class action against defendants with whom they had no dealing." La Mar, 489 F.2d at 464.

The third prerequisite was that the claims of the representative parties be typical of the class. Obviously this requirement is not met when the "representative" plaintiff never had a claim of any type against any defendant. There is nothing in the rule to suggest that the zeal or talent of the "representative" plaintiff's attorney can supply this omission. We believe that this prerequisite is also lacking when the plaintiff's cause of action, although similar to that of other members of the class, is against a defendant with respect to whom the class members have no cause of action. Those who purchased tickets from the appellee airlines, from whom the representative plaintiff purchased no tickets, have no cause of action by reason of such purchases against the airline from whom the representative plaintiff purchased. In brief, typicality is lacking when the representative plaintiff's cause of action is against a defendant unrelated to the defendants against whom the cause of action of the members of the class lies.

Id., 849 P.2d at 1038.

By ordering Plum Creek to furnish the information described in paragraph 4 of the Summons, this Court is changing this case from a common fund case to a class-action suit against ever insurer in Montana. Since neither the claimants in *Rausch* nor their attorneys have had dealings with Plum Creek, a class-action suit clearly would not permitted under Rule 23(a), M.R.Civ.P., and *Murer*. Moreover, even if the *Rausch* claimants or their attorneys could currently bring a class action, there is no reason to dispense with the law on class actions, the jurisdictional requirements of this Court, or the procedural rules of this Court. Indeed, to dispense with these requirements would violate Plum Creek's right to due process of law. Therefore, this Court should quash the Summons.

D. Plum Creek has no duty to solicit claims or to advise claimants of their legal rights in regard to said claims. See Ricks v. Teslow Consolidated, 162 Mont. 469, 512 P.2d 1304 (1973); see also Dennehy v. Anaconda Mineral Company, WCC No.: 8612-4030, 1989 WL 253344 (holding that self-insured had no trust relationship with claimants.)

Although this Court states that it will determine at a later date whether the information it has order to be provided is protected from disclosure to the attorneys in

Rausch, Fisch, Frost, and Ruhd, it is clear this Court is essentially ordering Plum Creek to solicit claims for impairment awards and, thereby, solicit claims for common fund attorney fees. In ordering Plum Creek to furnish such information, this Court is creating a legal duty for Plum Creek out of whole cloth that runs directly counter to Plum Creek's duties under the current law.

In *Ricks v. Teslow Consolidated*, 162 Mont. 469, 512 P.2d 1304 (1973), the court made it clear that a private insurer does not have trust relationship with a claimant or a potential claimant and that private insurers are under no duty to solicit claims. The claimant in *Ricks* filed a written claim for compensation nearly four years after his industrial accident. *Id.* at 471, 512 P.2d at 1306. The district court ruled that Argonaut Insurance was estopped from relying upon the statute of limitations because it did not advise the claimant that he had one year to file a written claim for benefits. *Id.* at 473, 512 P.2d at 1307.

Our Supreme Court reversed. The court noted that an insurer has no duty to solicit claims, or to send claimants or potential claimants a letter informing them of the time limitations applicable to their claims or potential claims. *Id.* at 473-74, 512 P.2d at 1307-08. In rejecting the argument that Argonaut was estopped from relying on the statute of limitations, the court explained that estoppel applies when the insurer has in some way mislead the claimant. *Id.* at 481, 512 P.2d at 1311. The court noted that Argonaut never mislead the claimant, either directly or by omission. *Id.* Indeed, the claimant and Argonaut never had any contact with each other. In distinguishing *Yurkovich*, the court explained that there is no trust relationship between a private insured and a claimant. The court stated as follows:

In Yurkovich which was a plan III case, the Court did hold that the Board had a duty to fully advise an injured workman of the claim filing requirements. But in Yurkovich the claimant wrote to the Board asking for information as to what he should do. In the instant case there is no such request from the claimant. There was no communication whatsoever between claimant and the insurer or the Board. In fact, claimant was represented by counsel who surely should have known of the claim filing requirements. The facts of the instant case are certainly distinguishable from Yurkovich. In addition, Yurkovich was decided on the theory that the Board was a trustee of the state fund, that it acted in a dual capacity and, therefore, had a greater duty toward claimants. Defendant Argonaut is not in the same position as the Board.

Id. at 482, 512 P.2d at 1312 (emphasis added.) This holding was extended to self insureds in *Dennehy v. Anaconda Mineral Company*, WCC No.: 8612-4030, 1989 WL 253344.

By requiring Plum Creek to furnish the information listed in paragraph 4 of the Summons, it is imposing the duty upon Plum Creek to solicit claims for impairment awards and, thereby, to solicit claims for common fund attorney fees. As noted in *Ricks* and *Dennehy*, Plum Creek is under no legal duty to do so. Accordingly, this Court should quash the Summons.

E. While the Court's jurisdiction and authority appears to extend to "supervising enforcement of the common fund... from all insurers involved" in this action, it does not appear to extend to parties such as Plum Creek which have not been properly made parties to this proceeding, which have not been properly joined by the assertion of class action claims, and which have no duty to solicit claims or advise claimants of their legal rights in regard to such claims. The Montana Supreme Court did not intend to do contravene such law by its statements in Rausch et. al. v. State Compensation Ins. Fund, 2002 MT 203, 311 Mont. 210, 54 P.3d 25 and Ruhd v. Liberty Northwest Ins. Corp., 2004 MT 236, 322 Mont. 478 (Ruhd II), decided August 31, 2004.

Based upon paragraph 1 of the Summons, it appears that this Court believes it has jurisdiction to order Plum Creek to produce the information base upon the Supreme Court's statement that "[t]he Workers' Compensation Court shall supervise enforcement of the common fund pursuant to *Rausch*, and all court approved settlements stemming from it, from all insurer's involved." *Ruhd v. Liberty Northwest Insur. Corp.*, 322 Mont. 478, 484, 97 P.3d 561, 566 (2004) (*Ruhd II*). Plum Creek respectfully argues that this Court has read too much into *Ruhd II*. The Supreme Court was doing nothing more than reiterating its general holding that the *Rausch* attorneys were entitled to common fund fees from insurers other than the Montana State Fund and that this Court has jurisdiction to consider disputes arising under the payment of such fees, if any such disputes arise. The Supreme Court could not have intended to make wholesale changes to the law governing this Court's jurisdiction or the manner in which cases are litigated. Certainly, if the Supreme Court wanted to make such wholesale changes, it would have specifically said so in *Ruhd II* and provided the method under which this Court was to supervise the enforcement of the common fund.

Plum Creek agrees that this Court could obtain jurisdiction over Plum Creek if a dispute arose between Plum Creek and a claimant claiming an entitlement to benefits under *Rausch* or between Plum Creek and an attorney entitled to a common fund fee. Until such a dispute arises and is handled in accordance with the procedural requirements of the Montana Workers' Compensation and Occupational Disease Acts, this Court simply has no jurisdiction to do anything. Thus, Plum Creek requests that this Court quash the Summons directed to Plum Creek.

# **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should quash the summons it issued to Plum Creek.

DATED this On day of February, 2005.

HAMMER, HEWITT, SANDLER & JACOBS, PLLC

Todd A. Hammer

David M. Sandler

P.O. Box 7310

Kalispell, MT 59904-0310

# IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

#### 2005 MTWCC 9

WCC No. 9907-8274R1

ALEXIS RAUSCH, et al.

**Petitioners** 

vs.

**MONTANA STATE FUND** 

Respondent/Insurer

and

**JEREMY RUHD** 

**Petitioner** 

vs.

## LIBERTY NORTHWEST INSURANCE CORPORATION

Respondent/Insurer.

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO QUASH SUMMONS AND OBJECTIONS, JOINING PARTIES, AND RETAINING CAPTION

**Summary:** Upon remand from the Montana Supreme Court decision in *Ruhd v. Liberty Northwest Ins. Corp.*, 2004 MT 236, 322 Mont. 478, 97 P.3d 561, and pursuant to that decision, the Workers' Compensation Court issued summonses to all Montana workers' compensation insurers and self-insurers who have paid permanent total disability benefits to claimants injured since June 30, 1991, requiring them to file responses identifying permanently totally disabled claimants. Some insurers responded by objecting to the summonses and moving to quash them.

<u>Held</u>: The objections are denied and the motions to quash overruled. The summonses make the insurers party respondents. The common fund doctrine obligates the insurers to identify



and pay benefitted claimants and gives the Court jurisdiction and authority to make them parties and enforce the common fund doctrine and lien.

# **Topics:**

**Common Fund Litigation: Parties.** Where a common fund has been established, the Workers' Compensation Court has jurisdiction and authority to join insurers to enforce payment of benefits to benefitted claimants and also enforce the common fund attorney fee lien.

**Common Fund: Jurisdiction.** Where a common fund has been established, the Workers' Compensation Court has jurisdiction and authority to join insurers to enforce payment of benefits to benefitted claimants and also enforce the common fund attorney fee lien.

**Procedure: Summons.** A summons hales the summoned party into court and makes the summoned party a party respondent to the action.

**Procedure:** Parties. A summons hales the summoned party into court and makes the summoned party a party respondent to the action.

**Common Fund Litigation: Insurers.** Where a decision creates a common fund, insurers have a duty to identify and pay the benefitted claimants the benefits to which they are entitled.

¶1 The Court has before it responses filed by Crawford and Company and Continental Casualty Company; Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P.; F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company; Benefis; ASARCO, Incorporated; Golden Sunlight Mines; and Northwest Healthcare Corporation. In those responses, the named respondents set out numerous objections to the summonses with which they were served and move to quash the summonses. The objections and motion to quash are without merit.

#### Discussion

This case is on remand from the Montana Supreme Court with specific instructions to enforce the entitlements of claimants which arose as a result of the Supreme Court's prior decision in *Rausch v. State Compensation Ins. Fund*, 2002 MT 203, 311 Mont. 210, 54 P.3d 25, as well as to enforce the *Rausch* attorneys' common fund attorney lien. *Ruhd v. Liberty Northwest Ins. Corp.*, 2004 MT 236, 322 Mont. 478, 97 P.3d 561. In *Ruhd*, the Supreme Court held that the *Rausch* attorneys, "via active litigation, are directly responsible for securing the right of all permanently totally disabled claimants to receive an impairment award, regardless of their insurer," and said, "[t]he Workers' Compensation Court shall supervise

Order Denying Motion to Quash Summons and Objections, Joining Parties, and Retaining Caption - Page 2

enforcement of the common fund pursuant to *Rausch*, and all court-approved agreements stemming from it, from all insurers involved." *Ruhd*, ¶¶ 19, 25. To that end, this Court caused summonses to be served on all Montana workers' compensation insurers and self-insurers who have paid permanent total disability benefits to claimants injured since June 30, 1991. The summonses require them to file responses identifying all permanently totally disabled claimants and to provide information concerning impairment ratings and impairment awards for those claimants.

- Respondents initially argue that they are not parties to this case and that this Court therefore has no jurisdiction to issue a summons to them. They are wrong. The intent of the summons is to join each of them **as parties**. If that is not clear from the summons, then this order makes that clear.
- Second, respondents argue that the Court lacks jurisdiction because no dispute exists. ¶4 Again, they are wrong. The Supreme Court's decision in Murer v. State Compensation Mut. Ins. Fund, 283 Mont. 210, 223, 942 P.2d 69, 77 (1997), expressly held that in common fund cases, claimants have a vested right to benefits which flow from the decision-in-chief. The Court said, "[a]dditionally, claimants established a vested right on behalf of the absent claimants to directly receive immediate monetary payments of past due benefits underpayments; and based on the establishment of those vested rights, the State Fund became legally obligated to make the increased benefits payments." Murer at 223, 942 P.2d at 77. As noted in paragraph 2 of this order, the Supreme Court in this case held that the Rausch decision secured "the right of all permanently totally disabled claimants to receive an impairment award." Ruhd, ¶19. Since this Court is charged with enforcing the rights of the common fund claimants, individual claimants are not required to file individual complaints against respondents. Claimants benefitted in a common fund case have a right to benefits; insurers have a corresponding duty to pay those benefits. Moreover, in light of the lien of the Rausch attorneys, and the notice of that lien, the respondents must account for common fund attorney fees for any impairment awards paid to permanently totally disabled claimants since the date of the lien notice.
- The respondents argue, thirdly, that they cannot be made parties in this action because it is not a class action. They are correct that this is not a class action, however, it is a common fund action and this Court's powers in common fund cases include the authority to join parties necessary to enforce the common fund and the common fund attorney lien.
- Fourth, they assert that they have "no duty to solicit claims or to advise claimant's of their legal rights in regard to said claims." (Brief in Support of [Respondents'] Objections to Summons and Motion to Quash Summons, ¶D.) This case does not involve a solicitation of claims or the providing of legal advice to claimants. Rather, *Rausch* and *Murer* created a duty obligating them to pay the benefits to which claimants in accepted liability cases are entitled. Moreover, to reiterate, this Court has a duty to enforce the common fund created by *Rausch*.

That duty requires it to compel each insurer and self-insurer to identify the claimants entitled to impairment awards and pay them those awards, as well as enforce the common fund attorney lien.

- ¶7 In a fifth, separately asserted ground, respondents reiterate their assertion that they are not parties and cannot be properly joined because this is not a class action. Those assertions have already been addressed.
- ¶8 Finally, I note that Crawford and Company is neither a self-insurer or insurer. Its interest in this matter is as a third-party adjuster for the responding insurers. As such, it is not a party in this action and is not required to file a response. Any duties it has are to the insurers for which it works and are therefore derivative of the insurers' duties.

## **ORDER**

- ¶9 For the reasons set forth in the above discussion, IT IS ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:
- ¶10 The motion to quash and objections filed by Crawford and Company and Respondents Continental Casualty Company; Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P.; F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company; Benefis; ASARCO, Incorporated; Golden Sunlight Mines; and Northwest Healthcare Corporation, are **denied**.
- ¶11 The summons haling the said respondents into Court renders Continental Casualty Company; Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P.; F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company; Benefis; ASARCO, Incorporated; Golden Sunlight Mines; and Northwest Healthcare, as well as all other insurers and self-insurers summoned or filing responses, party respondents in the present action.
- ¶12 To preserve continuity with respect to the caption in this case, and because of the large number of respondent insurers and self-insurers, the current caption will be retained. The names of the additional respondents will not be added to it.
- ¶13 Respondents Continental Casualty Company; Plum Creek Timber Company, L.P.; F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company; Benefis; ASARCO, Incorporated; Golden Sunlight Mines; and Northwest Healthcare Corporation are given until April 18, 2005, in which to file responses providing the information required by the summonses.

DATED in Helena, Montana, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2005.

(SEAL)

/s/ Mike McCarter JUDGE

c: Order e-mailed to Rausch Distribution List (see attached) on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005.

Order Denying Motion to Quash Summons and Objections, Joining Parties, and Retaining Caption - Page 4

Bothe & Lauridsen, P.C.
Attorneys at Law

KENNETH S. THOMAS DAVID W. LAURIDSEN LAURIE WALLACE DAVID M. SANDLER 5 HIGHWAY 2 EAST P.O. BOX 2020 COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912

(406) 892-2193 1 (800) 354-3262 FAX (406) 892-0207 E-MAIL: legalpad@digisys.net

WEBSITE: www.bandllaw.com

JOHN H. BOTHE

(1951-1996) May 2, 2008

> Ms. Clara Wilson Clerk of Workers' Compensation Court P.O. Box 537 Helena, MT 59624-0537

RE: SCHMILL v. LIBERTY NW INS. CORP., et al.

WCC No. 2001-0300

Dear Ms. Wilson:

Enclosed please find the Petitioner's Response to Responding Insurers' "Gateway Legal Issues" and Motion to Dismiss in regard to the above-referenced matter.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

AURIE WALLACE

**BOTHE & LAURIDSEN, P.C.** 

LW/rs

Enc.

**Bradley Luck** 

Greg Overturf

Larry Jones

Steven Jennings Geoffrey Keller